SPECTACLES FOR YOUNG LADIES;

EXHIBITING

The various Arts made Uſe of for ſeducing YOUNG WOMEN, and the dreadful Conſequences of ſtraying from the Paths of Innocence and Virtue, in a Stile that cannot offend the chaſteſt Ear; and, at the ſame Time that it amuſes with its ſurprizing Variety, conveys Inſtruction by the moſt effectual Method, EXAMPLE.

CONTAINING

The moſt remarkable Hiſtories of the Lives and Actions of thoſe YOUNG WOMEN, who, conſcious of their paſt Guilt, have dedicated the Remainder of their Time to the Service of GOD, and making Atonement, by Repentance, for their paſt Crimes, by retiring from the World to the MAGDALEN-HOSPITAL, London, erected for the Reception of penitent Proſtitutes.

As related by THEMSELVES.

Truſt not a Man; we are by Nature falſe,
Deſigning, cruel, ſubtle, and inconſtant:
If a Man talks of Love, with Caution hear him;
But, if he ſwears, he'll certainly deceive ye. OTWAY.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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PREFACE.

SOME apology may be judged neceſſary for a work which aſſumes real characters, tho' in the title page it acknowledges itſelf to be a fiction.

I have not indeed made free with the names of any of the Penitents; for tho' ſome may imagine, that little ceremony is requiſite towards perſons who have broke thro' all the forms of decency, and decorums of virtue, yet I cannot apprehend that *that* gives me a title to endeavour to bring thoſe again on the ſtage of the world, who have, for ſo good a reaſon, retired from it: But I may perhaps be thought by others to have gone too far in making my imaginary perſons aſſume *their* characters; and if I can find any excuſe for myſelf, it muſt be in the *motives* which induced me to do ſo.

My firſt aim in the following work was to plead the cauſe of the Penitents in the Magdalen-Houſe, who by many are repreſented as perſons too intirely abandoned to guilt and infamy, to deſerve relief, to which ſurely diſtreſs alone is a ſufficient

title. Judgment is not intruſted with us: 'Every 'man muſt ſtand or fall to his own maſter.' Shall We be more rigid than HE who knoweth the heart, and hath a right to our obedience? "He maketh his ſun to ſhine on the juſt and on "the unjuſt." Virtue alone can merit our eſteem; but miſery deſerves our pity, and indigence may claim our bounty.

Tho' the profeſſion of a proſtitute is the moſt deſpicable and hateful that imagination can form; yet the individuals are frequently worthy objects of compaſſion; and I am willing to believe, that if people did but reflect on the various ſtratagems uſed at firſt to corrupt them, while poverty often, and ſtill oftener vanity, is on the ſide of the corruptor, they would ſmooth the ſtern brow of rigid virtue, and turn the contemptuous frown into tears of pity.

Tho' I do not pretend the following ſtories to be real facts, yet I think every one will ſee ſo plainly, that the incidents are not only probable, but ſuch as muſt frequently have happened, as may lead them to acknowlege, that the firſt ſtep into that way of life oftener proceeds from weakneſs than from vice; and that if the beginning of their misfortunes, or rather their crimes, have been owing to a want of ſteadineſs in themſelves in the practice of virtue, many of their ſubſequent vices have ariſen from the affectation of too overſtrained a chaſtity in others, who, unlike their Maker, ever ready to accept the repentant ſinner, and to heal the contrite heart, exclude them from the means of reformation, by hunting them out of every way of obtaining an honeſt ſubſiſtence, till the only alternative left them, is, either to owe their ſupport to a continuance in vicious courſes, or to die martyrs to chaſtity:

A mar-

A martyrdom, which, I fear, many of their ſevereſt cenſurers would find difficult; and yet, ſurely, to none can it be ſo hard, as to thoſe whoſe conſciences are burdened with a heavy crime; for "the ſting of death is ſin." Therefore, to them it muſt appear with accumulated horrors; and deſpair will drive them into an increaſe of guilt, to avoid ſo early an appearance before the Judgment-Seat, from whence is no appeal.

Example affects more than precept; the latter piques our pride, the former intereſts our paſſions on its ſide. This known truth ſuggeſted to me the form of the following work; and if, by relating a ſeries of probable events, I ſhall incline any woman ſo effectually to pity the frailty of one of her own ſex, as to forgive the paſt, and enable the offender to efface her guilt by ſincere repentance and a blameleſs life; if, I ſay, I can do this, I ſhall eſteem myſelf extremely happy; nor ſhall I repine at the time I have beſtowed on the following ſheets, if I can only ſo far ſoften the obdurately virtuous, as to induce them to forbear the cruel endeavour of caſting an odium on an inſtitution which does ſo much honour to the preſent age; which will reflect never-fading glory on thoſe who inſtituted it; and which will purchaſe for them rewards, that ſhall exiſt when time ſhall be no more.

That there can be no objects ſo miſerable, conſequently ſo deſerving of compaſſion, as thoſe for whoſe relief this inſtitution is deſigned, is ſurely paſt diſpute. I confeſs it is beyond the reach of my imagination to conceive a ſtate of ſuch abſolute wretchedneſs as that of the proſtitute. In moſt conditions, from the viciſſitude of all worldly events, as proſperity is checquered

with ſome painful hours, and for a time obſcured by unavoidable afflictions, ſo wretchedneſs is interrupted by caſual bleſſings, and its gloom enlivened by ſome gleams of joy. But the proſtitute's life is divided between ſurfeiting riot, penury, diſeaſe, and infamy; continual tranſitions from one extreme to another, each almoſt equally diſtant from real happineſs; ſurrounded with a variety of diſtreſſes here, and on the brink of eternal miſery hereafter; their lives are a continual progreſſion from one crime to another, and their deaths, in every circumſtance, too horrible to relate.

Yet many appear unwilling to draw them out of this ſtate of wretchedneſs; they ſhrink with horror at the mention of people ſo criminal, and hate them for the vices which ſhould inſpire us with a moſt ardent deſire for their reformation. Were they leſs wicked, they would be leſs fit objects of compaſſion, and leſs require amendment.

A Being infinitely pure and perfect, was moved to pity by the ſins of his creatures: Shall We then, whoſe offences are numberleſs, refuſe our pardon and aſſiſtance to thoſe, who may not more properly be termed fellow-creatures, than fellow-ſinners, becauſe their offences are of a deeper dye than our own? eſpecially as the different degrees in which we rank our guilt and theirs may poſſibly proceed from ſelf partiality: For if we take into our account their ſuperior temptations, and inferior advantages towards the repreſſing them, the balance may not, to an All-ſeeing eye, appear in our favour. But if we are conſcious of a real ſuperiority in merit, let us be thankful to Him who gave it us, and by whom we have been preſerved in that path wherein

wherein He firſt inclined us to walk; and while we lend our help to our ſtumbling fellow-creatures, let us petition Him who can turn the human heart, and change the will, to vouchſafe to guide them, during the remainder of their lives, in the road that leads to preſent peace, and future bliſs. Let us not, by mean exultation, loſe the benefit of our ſuperior happineſs; but rather increaſe our own, by imparting a portion of it to them; and not endanger our ſouls by pride, after having preſerved them from ſenſuality.

The frivolous objections raiſed againſt the inſtitution itſelf, have not given me much leſs concern. I have always been inclined to indulge an opinion, not peculiar to myſelf, that every one eſteems virtue, tho' temptations may lead them to neglect the practice of it; and that both from the ſecret ſuggeſtions of conſcience, and the deſire of being thought to approve what is highly praiſe-worthy, no one would deny to merit its juſt tribute of praiſe: But the inſtitution of the Magdalen-Houſe has taught me, that this debt is often paid with an unwilling mind, and withheld as long as a poſſibility of caviling at it remains.

Thoſe who dare not boldly refuſe their approbation to benevolence, with timid treachery endeavour to conceal their want of it, under objections, which, tho' void of force, ſince they are contrary to truth, ſtill afford a lurking-place where malevolence hopes to hide itſelf, while it hangs forth the colours of prudence and ſagacity, and ſometimes aſſumes the name of rigid virtue. Theſe pretend to fear, that this inſtitution will prove an encouragement to vice, by offering the vicious an aſylum: But this ſcarcely deſerves an anſwer, being ſufficiently confuted by this only

conſideration; that to be one of its inhabitants is certainly leſs eligible to a woman, who does not want to hide her head from ſhame, than the commoneſt ſervice; and that to a perſon ſtill viciouſly, or even gaily inclined, it would be the moſt diſmal priſon.

Others urge the improbability of a reformation. To amend the human heart, in oppoſition to its own inclinations, is indeed a difficult taſk; but whoever applies to this Houſe, muſt, as far as their deſire goes, and that is almoſt the whole way, be reformed already. If they are not led there by remorſe, and ſome remains of unextinguiſhed virtue, they are at leaſt driven by a deſire to ſeek ſhelter from the hatefulneſs of vice, or the horrors of its attendant miſeries. Either motive is ſufficient to reform the life, while ſecluded from temptation, and ſecured from diſtreſs and inſult; and tho' they are brought thither, not by ſorrow for their ſins, but for the conſequences of them; yet when every diſtraction from reflection, and every impediment to conviction, is removed, the whiſperings of conſcience will be heard; and ſhe, whoſe deſign extended no farther than the reformation of her conduct, will find her heart amended, and, from a decent behaviour, will proceed to purity of mind.

An earneſt deſire after a thorough change of life can only induce perſons to aſk for admiſſion into a place where every hour is ſpent in the utmoſt contrariety to their former practices. I need not urge, that the charms of decency, the ſober ſatisfaction ariſing from regularity of conduct, and the delights of virtue, muſt win upon the heart, ſince their inclinations appear already fixed; and it is highly improbable that they ſhould

ſhould decline in a place where every thing is calculated for their increaſe.

I have met with ſome who ridicule the Magdalen-Houſe as a fruitleſs undertaking, on a ſuppoſition that it is intended as a prevention of the vice to which it owes its inhabitants; and indeed, if, contrary to all reaſon, they imagine this to be the deſign of the inſtitution, they may well apprehend it will prove uſeleſs.

I fear that is a vice which can never be ſuppreſſed, while he, who ſeduces a woman into guilt and ſhame, and abandons her to diſeaſe and poverty, obtains no other appellation by ſuch villainy, than that of a man of gallantry; while he may be called a man of honour, tho' he breaks thro' ties of truth, faith, and humanity, in the deſtruction of one, whoſe greateſt weakneſs was believing him incapable of the vileneſs to which ſhe falls a ſacrifice; too late perceiving, that the only charm he found in innocence, was the means it gave him to effect its ruin, by its unſuſpicious credulity.

If the man who lives in the open profeſſion of a ſin, which is one of the moſt pernicious to ſociety, and the moſt deſtructive to his own ſoul; for we are aſſured upon divine authory, that 'no 'ſuch ſhall enter into the kingdom of heaven;' if ſuch a man ſhall be careſſed by his own ſex, whoſe rights he is ever ready to invade, and admired by the other, whoſe temporal and eternal deſtruction are his conſtant aim; can we wonder that he goes on, in uninterrupted ſchemes, to add to the meaſure of his iniquity; and to increaſe the number of wretches, whoſe ſouls and bodies are to be ſacrificed to his diſſolute principles, or meaner vanity?

The laws reach only part of the crimes which diſturb ſociety; public cenſure and diſcountenance is a puniſhment in which every one may be judge and executioner; and were they properly inflicted, would prove moſt powerful towards effecting a general reformation; but while we ſpend all our cenſure on folly, which ſhould only excite our compaſſion, and ſuffer vice, the proper object of hatred and contempt, to eſcape with impunity, if it has rank and fortune to ſupport it, we cannot hope to ſee the ſucceſsfully wicked reclaimed. All that the beſt man can do, is, as far as poſſible, to repair the ravages *others* commit; and to endeavour to bring back to peace thoſe ſouls whom *they* have involved in all the depths of miſery.

This is the noble deſign of the inſtitutors of the Magdalen-Houſe: "They have been eyes to "the blind, and feet to the lame;" for they have diſſipated the worſt of blindneſs, that of the mind; they have let in upon it the light of truth; and led the wavering wandering ſteps into the paths of peace and virtue. "They have deli-"vered the poor that cried, and thoſe who had "none to help them; the cauſe that they knew "not, they have ſearched out. When the ear "heareth them, it ſhall bleſs them; and when "the eye ſeeth them, it ſhall witneſs to them." To whom can it more properly be ſaid at the great and tremendous day of judgment, "I was "an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was "thirſty, and ye gave me drink; I was a ſtran-"ger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye cloath-"ed me; I was ſick, and ye viſited me:" For inaſmuch as theſe acts of humanity are done to the meaneſt of his creatures, we are aſſured our

our merciful Creator will accept them as done to Himſelf.

No perſon will diſpute the uſe of Hoſpitals which are inſtituted for the relief of corporal diſtempers; but of much higher benefit is that intended to heal the ſoul; and not only to abate temporary pains, but to ſave from eternal torments.

Amongſt the greateſt nation the world ever ſaw, the preſervation of the life of a citizen was judged an action deſerving public honour, and a crown was placed on the head of him who had thus merited the thanks of the republic. How much greater reward might theſe gentlemen juſtly claim; for they at once preſerve great numbers from a pernicious life, and an untimely death, and, by reſtoring them to induſtry and order, render them uſeful members of ſociety?

With diſintereſted joy I behold their great deſert, while I can only, at an humble diſtance, pray for their ſucceſs, and pleaſe myſelf with hopes, that they will receive ſuch contributions, as ſhall enable them to extend their charity to all who ſhall deſire to partake of the benefits it offers.

And now, gentle reader; for gentle I muſt wiſh you to be, that from your good nature I may hope for a favourable reception of the following imperfect ſheets; after I have declared that my deſign has been to write in defence of Penitents, give me leave to ſay, that I ſhall eſteem myſelf peculiarly happy, if I can have any ſhare in preventing one perſon from ſtanding in need of penitence. To inſtruct, as well as to amuſe, ſhould be the higheſt ambition of the ſpecies of writers, among whom, by this attempt, I have ranked myſelf.

Many have given directions to the world how to read hiſtory; nor have the other branches of learning

learning been left without rules for the method of turning them to greater advantage. If I may be permitted to be ſo methodical, upon that ſpecies of writing which ſeems generally to owe its riſe to the wild wanderings of the wildeſt of things, the imagination; I will venture to give directions for reading of Novels.

Every fable has its moral. If Æſop could make birds and beaſts teach by their actions, can we ſuppoſe thoſe of mankind are not equally intelligible and inſtructive? Though the facts be imaginary, the conſequences drawn from them may be real; not only every ſtory, but every incident, ſhould have its moral; and that ſo obvious, that an obſerving mind ſhall readily perceive it.

The Method therefore that I would recommend to thoſe who apply themſelves to this ſort of reading, is, to attend to the Moral as much as to the Story. If in hiſtory our thoughts reach no farther than the facts, or in books of reaſoning we ſtop at the firſt principles, not attending to the conſequences ariſing from the one, nor the arguments deducible from the other, the mind will only reſemble an index: It may prove of ſome uſe to thoſe whoſe reflections are leſs circumſcribed, but can never contain any knowlege in itſelf. To ſuch a reader, Livy or Tacitus can give no greater improvement than the Seven champions of Chriſtendom, or the wonderful adventures of Guy Earl of Warwick: The degree of probability in facts, is of no importance to thoſe, whoſe thoughts never extend to the cauſes or the conſequences.

Novels ſhould be wrote and read as books which are to teach by illuſtrating the moral by the facts, where precept is enlivened by examples,

ples, and imagination brought in to ſtrengthen reaſon, not to confound it. If the writer looſes ſight of this deſign, ſtill the reader may, if he pleaſes, keep it always in view; tho' ſuch novels as require much effort in the mind to diſcover a good moral in them are certainly very pernicious; for works of imagination are fit only for the entertainment of an idle hour; when we ſhould do by the reader, as indulgent parents act by their children, teach them in play, and blend inſtruction ſo cloſely with amuſement, that the deſign ſhall be ſcarcely perceivable to the mind in that childiſh ſtate of inactivity.

In defence of the following work I muſt obſerve, that I do not, under the term of Amuſement, include only that gaiety which plays on the imagination; for what intereſts the paſſions amuſes the mind, however melancholy the ſubjects; and we are not leſs entertained at a tragedy, than at the more lively productions of the comic muſe.

As theſe ſort of books are moſt likely to fall into the hands of perſons to whom faſhionable diſſipations leave little leiſure for the peruſal of any thing more ſerious, it is not blameable to wiſh, tho' it may be preſumptuous to hope, that any thing they ſhall find in this performance may warn them againſt giving way to the emotions of vanity; indulging the firſt ſtep of indiſcretion; or ſuffering their good principles to be eraſed by the diſſolute or careleſs practices of others: But ſhould it prove ſo fortunate, the author will, from a trifling labour, receive a ſatisfaction, which would not be dearly purchaſed by the application of a whole life.

THE

THE

HISTORIES

Of Some of the

PENITENTS

IN THE

Magdalen-House.

CHAP. I.

Let my tears thank you; for I cannot ſpeak
And if I could, ——————
Words were not made to vent ſuch thoughts as mine.
Dryden.

THE pleaſure every one finds in talking of themſelves, may ſerve to convince us, that ſo many perſons as ſeek refuge in the Magdalen-Houſe from guilt and infamy, cannot forbear

bear giving ſome account to each other of their paſt actions, eſpecially as they will contain much variety and adventure. That they muſt thereby call to remembrance all their diſtreſſes, is no reaſon againſt it; for we daily ſee people more inclined to dwell on the relation of their misfortunes, than on the happier events of their lives. Whether it proceeds from the ſatisfaction they receive in reflecting that the ſtorm is over, or from the deſire of being pitied, which ſeems implanted in our natures, He only, who knows all the ſprings of the human mind, can tell. That theſe penitents muſt by this means publiſh their own infamy, is as ſmall an impediment; for that is ſufficiently known by their being there; and their hearers have none of that obdurate virtue, which makes people not know how to pity weakneſſes they never felt: All are in much the ſame ſtate, tho' brought to it by different ſteps.

We have had examples of females, whoſe frailty has not been accompanied with half the extenuating circumſtances that theſe perſons can alledge, yet have blazoned forth their crimes to a world, part of which, innocent of the like, muſt blame; and ſtill a greater part, who having been more private, tho' not more virtuous, will certainly cenſure loudly, when they ſee,

---------" Each fair advance,
" The luſcious heroine of her own romance."

But in the ſociety which I am ſpeaking of, the caſe is different; each looks on the other with an eye of pity: Equal diſtreſs, and equal relief, beget a ſort of mutual affection; while their hearts

hearts overflow with gratitude to their noble benefactors, (noble, if not by blood or deſcent, intrinſically ſo from the generous benevolence of their worthy hearts) they rejoice not only in their own deliverance, but in that of all they behold; and, ſufficiently humbled by former miſery, they relate with compunction, from hearts overcharged with the remembrance of paſt wretchedneſs, and the comforts of preſent eaſe; not with vanity, like thoſe I have mentioned, who exult more in their number of conqueſts, than bluſh at having themſelves been ſo often conquered; and are more vain of their beauty, than aſhamed of their vice.

When but a ſmall number had flown for refuge to this bleſſed aſylum, they were one evening ſitting together, after the work of the day was paſt, when one of them turning towards the youngeſt in company, who had long ſat ſilent, obſerved that tears trickled gently down her cheeks. This young woman was not twenty years old; her perſon was extremely elegant, her hands and arms finely turned, her neck white as alabaſter, and exquiſitely formed. Her face expreſſed all the humble modeſty of a Madona, with a countenance languiſhingly ſweet. The young woman who obſerved her, aſked, what ſorrow could reach her in that comfortable retreat? "for here," continued ſhe, "what "can we grieve for, except it be our ſins? and "ſuch grief is accompained with conſolation, "as it brings with it a hope of pardon, and a "ſatisfaction in thinking we are come to a neceſ-"ſary ſenſe of our own guilt, the firſt ſtep to "repentance."

'You miſtake the cauſe of my emotions,' replied the young woman: Mine were not tears

'of

'of ſorrow, but of joy and gratitude. When 'I beheld with what content, and innocence, 'that neceſſary ingredient to content, we ſat here 'ſurrounded with all the comforts of this life, 'and all the aſſiſtances requiſite to bring us to 'the bleſſings of the next, and compared it 'with the wretchedneſs from whence I was 'redeemed by it; my heart overflowed with 'gratitude to our excellent benefactors, who, 'like our bleſſed Lord, come as phyſicians to 'the ſick, and call ſinners, not the righteous, 'to repentance; who offer reſt and refreſh-'ment to all thoſe that are heavy laden with 'their miſeries. From theſe worthy inſtru-'ments of divine mercy, my grateful thoughts 'roſe to Him who is the Author of all good-'neſs, and conſequently inſpired them with 'this charitable intention; till oppreſſed with 'my own ſenſations, they found ſome vent in 'tears, and wore the appearance of ſorrow.'

'The livelineſs of your gratitude,' replied the other, 'reproaches me for want of ſenſi-'bility, who ought to feel ſo much more, and 'yet appear leſs affected. But my heart is for 'ever full, and how ſhould it be otherwiſe? 'for I have ſuffered ſome years more of 'wretchedneſs than you can have done, who 'I imagine have ſcarcely ſeen your twentieth 'year.'

"You are right as to my age," anſwered the young woman, "but I am old in miſery. "Were "I to meaſure my years by the pangs I have "felt, my life would appear of an antediluvian "length."

'Your misfortunes muſt have begun early in-'deed,' ſaid a third, 'and ſeem peculiarly 'affecting; they excite the curioſity of thoſe

'who

'who have enough to employ their thoughts 'at home, without concerning themſelves a-'bout others; for idleneſs of mind is generally 'the parent of curioſity; but for all this, I con-'feſs myſelf curious.'

Many others expreſſing the ſame curioſity, the young woman told them ſhe would not refuſe to gratify them: If any thing ſhe could ſay would withdraw their thoughts from themſelves it might be ſome relief, as we ſeldom feel other people's misfortunes ſo ſeverely as our own.

Accordingly ſhe proceeded, as the next chapter will ſhew.

CHAP. II.

How happy is the harmleſs country maid!
Who, rich by nature, ſcorns ſuperfluous aid:
Whoſe modeſt cloaths no wanton eyes invite,
But, like her ſoul, preſerve the native white:
Whoſe little ſtore her well-taught mind does pleaſe;
Not pinch'd with want, nor clogg'd with wanton eaſe.
Who, free from ſtorms, which on the great ones fall,
Makes but few wiſhes, and enjoys them all.

ROSCOMMON.

MY father was a clergyman in the Weſt of England. He ſerved two curacies and one living; all which together did not bring him in one hundred pounds, per annum; but entirely engroſſed his time, as he endeavoured to do his duty in each pariſh, to the utmoſt of his power,

power, and obliged him to be at the expence of keeping a horſe. This, with the continual repairs neceſſary to his parſonage houſe, which was much decayed, and the ill ſtate of health wherewith my mother was afflicted for many years, made his income but barely ſufficient for himſelf and his family, tho' it was not large; for of many children my mother bore him, one elder ſiſter and myſelf only lived to grow up.

When I was near fourteen years old, my mother died, which occaſioned my ſiſter's return home. She had ſpent three years with an aunt, who was a millener in a large town in that country; but, by the loſs of my mother, became neceſſary to take care of my father's family, whoſe health declined ſo faſt, that nurſing him was her chief employ.

In a little more than a year, we loſt my father; a great misfortune to us both, but particularly to me, who was thus left to my own guidance and ſupport, when I was but fifteen. My appearance indeed was womanly; I had been bred up in religious principles, but at that age they could not be deeply grounded, nor ſo fixed as to ſtand againſt the temptations of the world, into which I was now thrown.

My father's effects, when ſold and all accompts ſettled, yielded us but a few pounds. My aunt was dead, and we had no near relation who could aſſiſt us; but a lady in the neighbourhood, who had always profeſſed a great regard for my father, called upon us, when the firſt agonies of our grief were ſo far over as to enable us to perceive the forlornneſs of our ſituation.

My

My ſiſter applied to this Lady for her protection for me, for whom ſhe was moſt uneaſy; being, as ſhe ſaid, able to provide for her own ſupport; but my youth and perſon, which perhaps ſhe beheld with partial eyes, filled her with apprehenſions for me.

The Lady aſſured us ſhe would do her utmoſt to ſerve me; that if ſhe had no ſons, or I was leſs handſome, ſhe would receive me into her houſe; but that was now impoſſible: however, ſhe would enquire among all her friends, if ſhe could find any thing proper for me, and hoped to ſucceed before we were obliged to quit the houſe.

This Lady was as good as her word; and not not being ſo much afraid for other people's ſons as for her own, ſhe prevailed with a Lady of her acquaintance, who lived in the next county, to receive me as her woman. She had ſuffered me to aſſiſt in the dreſſing of her daughters ſeveral times, that I might be qualified for my place; and at the time appointed, gave me a letter of recommendation, to ſecure me ſtill a better reception.

To take leave of my ſiſter, was like loſing my only parent; for ſuch ſhe was to me, tho' not above five years older than myſelf: I think I could not have felt much deeper affliction for her death, our ſeparation appearing to us not much leſs grievous. I was frighted at the thought of going amongſt entire ſtrangers, and into a new employ; and my ſiſter's apprehenſions were ſuch as were but too well verified in the ſequel. She ſpent the laſt day we were together in warning me againſt the temptations which would perhaps fall in my way; of which I remember the following words were

were part, for they made a ſtrong impreſſion, tho' to little purpoſe; and the misfortunes into which I fell from diſregarding them, fixed them ſtronger in my mind.

'My dear Emily,' ſaid ſhe, 'I cannot fear for 'your honeſty, or ſincerity, tho' I have ſaid ſo 'much on thoſe ſubjects. Your nature is ſu-'perior to any offence of this kind; but my 'apprehenſions are numerous in another re-'ſpect. I would not attempt to tell you, you 'are not handſome; our own eyes in ſuch 'particulars give us ſufficient evidence, and we 'ſeldom doubt their truth; beſides, the leſs 'perſuaded you are of this, the more you 'will be pleaſed with thoſe who tell it you, 'which all will be ready to do. Such a per-'ſon as yours, in your ſituation, will attract 'many admirers; for while the one charms, the 'other will excite hopes; which I would flatter 'myſelf will be diſappointed; but I confeſs my 'apprehenſions ariſe as much from the tender-'neſs of your heart, as from the ſnares that 'will be laid in your way. If that does not be-'tray you, all the reſt may be eaſily baffled: 'but what can I ſay that will ſteel your heart 'with indifference! Alas! it is above my 'power: He only who made it can correct it. 'To him, my deareſt Emily, you muſt apply; 'and bear conſtantly in mind, that your preſent 'and eternal happineſs depend on the proper re-'gulation of your affections.'

'Advice to this purpoſe ſhe repeated the whole day, with many tears, and anxious prayers for my preſervation.

The next morning parted us, never to meet again with ſo much ſatisfaction, melancholy as that laſt interview appeared to us.

One

One day's journey brought me to the houſe of Lady Markland, my new Miſtreſs. I was immediately introduced into the parlour, where ſhe then was ſitting with Sir George Markland her huſband, their ſon Mr. Markland, a young gentleman of about twenty-five years old, and another Lady and Gentleman who were then with them on a viſit. My confuſion was ſo great, I was ſcarcely able to anſwer the queſtion ſhe put to me, or even to deliver the letter with which I was charged.

While her Ladyſhip was peruſing the epiſtle, my diſtreſs increaſed; for the reſt of the company fixed their eyes ſo entirely upon me, that I could find no place for my own, and began to think the queſtions which had before diſtreſſed me, were a great relief, in having taken up my attention. I have reaſon to believe the Lady took compaſſion on me; for ſhe called me to her, aſked me how I had performed my journey, and ſuch ſort of queſtions as ſeemed to have no other intention but to encourage me; then, turning to Lady Markland, ſaid, "I perceive, "Madam, you are not of a jealous diſpoſition."

"No indeed," replied her Ladyſhip, "but "if I was, it would be no reaſon why I ſhould "be plagued with an ugly face about me; "for Sir George muſt ſee handſome ones a-"broad, if I ſuffered none but Hottentots at "home."

This ſhort dialogue increaſed my confuſion; and no words ever ſounded more acceptable than the orders Lady Markland gave to the ſervant who introduced me, to ſhew me to her houſe-keeper.

This houſe-keeper was one who had lived a great many years in the family, and, as I afterwards

wards found, was held in great eſtimation. She underſtood all the neceſſary parts of a houſe-keeper's office, and none better than flattery; which, perhaps, gave a great charm to her other qualifications, for ſhe was not without defects. Tho' ſhe was an uſeful director in the kitchen, and an aſſiduous watch over the other ſervants, yet her firſt attachment was to her own intereſt, of which ſhe was never neglectful. She was no bigot to truth; and in her Lady's abſence, made herſelf amends for the flattery ſhe thought proper to beſtow on her before her face; falling as much ſhort of what ſhe deſerved at one time, as ſhe went beyond it at another. Nor did ſhe excel more in chaſtity than in other virtues; for ſhe had for ſome years been ſuſpected of an intrigue with Sir George's valet-de-chambre; but being both thought excellent ſervants, it was winked at, tho' all the family were certain that it was well known to their maſter and lady. Indeed, being often preſent when they converſed freely, I found they made a jeſt of it, not from diſbelief, but from thinking it of no conſequence.

This greatly ſhocked me at firſt; and the familiarities between theſe two lovers, who were my only companions at meals and on evenings, were very diſtreſſing; however, as they gave me reaſon to think my abſence would not be diſagreeable, I ſat with them as little as I could.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Love gives eſteem, and then he gives deſert;
He either finds equality, or makes it:
Like Death, he knows no difference in degrees,
But plains and levels all. DRYDEN.

MY Lady was very good-natured and indulgent to all her ſervants, and to me among the reſt; tho' I had no hopes of becoming a favourite, when I ſaw, by her houſe-keeper's practice, how much ſhe loved flattery. She would often ſay, when I omitted an opportunity of imitating her, that I was dull; and ſometimes, that ſhe fancied I could think nothing commendable in any one but myſelf; but all this without any bitterneſs.

I ſeldom ſaw Sir George, but in his Lady's preſence; he would often talk to me and compliment me, called me Lady Markland's Venus; and when I entered the room, would cry, Here comes your goddeſs, my dear; but all with ſo much mirth, and ſo little deſign, that in time I learnt not to mind it, and anſwered to the name of Venus, as readily as to that of Emily.

Mr. Markland was much leſs free, but more attentive; he treated me with ſuch reſpect, that his mother would ſometimes tell him, ſhe believed he thought I was a goddeſs in reality. He would anſwer, that a fine woman was a better thing; that no ſituation in life ſhould make a man fail in politeneſs to one of the

other ſex; and that really there was a modeſty in my appearance, which was truly reſpectable. Theſe ſort of compliments he would make me before his parents; and often gave the converſation ſuch a turn, as afforded him opportunities of applying others to me by his eyes, which were unobſerved by every one elſe. He found excuſes to come into the houſe-keeper's room, where he would rally her and her lover on their mutual paſſion, taking occaſion from it to vent ſome libertine ſentiments, wherein they were ſure to ſecond him; and ſometimes to behave with a tenderneſs and gallantry to me, which I ought with ſhame to ſay, rather alarmed than offended me; ſo little was I the better for my ſiſter's good advice.

I wrote her an account of all the family into which I had entered; but at firſt, for fear of increaſing her apprehenſions, and afterwards from the conſcious weakneſs of my own heart, did not tell her how very amiable Mr. Markland was, both in perſon and manner; in both of which he has ſeldom been equalled; nor of his addreſſes to me. But I communicated to her one circumſtance which ſurprized me; That were it not that they ſometimes attended the pariſh church on Sundays, I ſhould not know whether the family I lived in was Jew, Mahometan, or Chriſtian; for there was never any ſign of worſhip among them. I never heard the name of a Superior Being uttered, but as a word of courſe, or by way of ſtrengthening an aſſertion. While the Gentleman and Lady I have mentioned remained there, cards employed the Sundays as regularly as the other days; and when they failed to do ſo after their departure, it was for want of a party.

I was

I was much ſurprized at a manner of life which I thought could be found only amongſt the reprobate; whereas Sir George and my Lady appeared univerſally reſpected; ſhe behaved with good humour to her ſervants, and he with humanity to his tenants; that is, he did not require more of them than they could poſſibly pay, and choſe rather to turn them out of their farms, than ſupport them in goal. In ſhort, they committed no vices, and had conſtitutional good-nature; their characters might be well drawn by negatives; but as for poſitive virtues, they thought them unneceſſary; they would declare they never did any harm, and did all the good they could: A ſtrong aſſertion, and difficult to be made good by the beſt people: For as every action is an example to ſomebody, and has numerous conſequences, many that the actor eſteems innocent, will prove pernicious. Thus Sir George and my Lady, by winking at the intrigues of their ſervants, and ſpeaking lightly of religion and virtue, baniſhed both from their family, and became not only anſwerable for their own faults, but for thoſe which their examples encouraged in their domeſtics.

My ſiſter was as much vexed with the account I ſent her of the family, as I was ſurprized at what I related. She wrote me word ſhe wiſhed me in a worſe place, if I had but a better example. She had been taken into a millener's ſhop in town, where her aunt had lived, and where her conduct had recommended her.

I had not been above a month at Sir George's, before Mr. Markland began to make real love to me; he took every opportunity of finding me alone, which my practice of avoiding the houſe-keeper's room rendered more eaſy. I was ſen-

ſible of a new born partiality for this gentleman; and not having forgot what my ſiſter had ſaid to me, reſolved to endure more of the houſe-keeper's company, that I might be leſs alone. This did not make much alteration; for Mr. Markland was too quick-ſighted not to know that intereſt had its due weight with the houſe-keeper. He began therefore by making her preſents, which his behaviour to me explained the reaſon of; and ſhe willing to deſerve his bounty, multiplied opportunities for his coming into her room, and was continually in his abſence telling me of his paſſion for me, of my good fortune, and how much it might turn out to my advantage, without my underſtanding in what manner ſhe meant. I could comprehend no other method of being benefitted by his love, than marriage; every thing elſe to me appeared attended with guilt and ruin.

I was now much at a loſs how to avoid Mr. Markland; and what was worſe, my heart was ready to furniſh me with excuſes for not doing it. My religious principles grew weaker every day; piety was treated as enthuſiaſm, ſtrictneſs of manners as folly; for 'our Maker was merciful, and 'deſigned to make us happy; which we could be 'only by following our pleaſures: that our taſtes 'and paſſions were given us as benefits, that 'we might receive happineſs from gratifying 'them.'

My Lady having found me ſeveral times reading in a religious book, at laſt ſnatched it out of my hand; and throwing it down, ſaid, 'The girl would turn her head: She 'never new a puritanical ſervant, who did not 'turn out a whore or a thief; and that ſhe 'wanted

'wanted not to have her jewels ſtolen to feed 'methodiſt parſons; or her cloaths pawned, to 'furniſh out their weekly contributions.' As I had never ſeen her ſo angry, I began to think there muſt be ſome crime in religion, which I did not know, to make it appear ſo offenſive.

The houſe-keeper one day caught me at prayers. This was told in the houſe-keeper's room, as a moſt ridiculous circumſtance. Much laughter enſued. She aſked me, If I was praying for a huſband. Mr. Markland called me his fair ſaint; told me, I miſtook the matter; for I was made not to pray, but to be prayed to.

To find religion both the object of ſerious cenſure and of ridicule, made me think there was ſomething very uncommon in it; and that in having it, I was certainly guilty of a great peculiarity. My religion was rather founded on habit than reaſon. I had been told *what* I ſhould do; but my father's continual occupation abroad had prevented his teaching me *why* I was to do ſo. Thus I was unprovided with reaſons for my practice; and Mr. Markland, whoſe underſtanding furniſhed him almoſt at one view with all that could be ſaid on every ſubject, was diligent in removing what he called the prejudices of education.

Every frailty that had been committed by any perſon who profeſſed ſome regard for religion, if it had come to their knowledge, was repeated by them with triumph: But I was not weak enough to think this availed them much: For I had never been taught to believe that any common degree of piety would always conquer natural diſpoſition, or be a certain defence againſt the temptations of the world; nor that the moſt religious

were infallible. While they were mortal, they muſt be frail; and none pay ſo great a compliment to religion, as thoſe who imagine every one who profeſſes it muſt or ſhould be a ſaint: But often wide is the profeſſion from the practice!

In this manner we went on for near half a year that we continued in the country. Mr. Markland grew more aſſiduous and more open in his courtſhip, and I liſtened to it every day with more pleaſure, and fewer fears. Nor did my companions ſuffer his cauſe to loſe in his abſence; they continually contrived to leave us alone together; when he would laviſh all the vows and oaths that ever lover broke, with ſuch tender importunity, that I ſometimes wondered how, with a heart ſo filled with frailty, I had reſiſted. But principle ſtill got the better of my paſſion, tho' it was riſen to the utmoſt exceſs of tenderneſs.

Mr. Markland was too well acquainted with the human paſſions, and I too little with the arts of concealment, for him to remain ignorant of the ſtate of my heart: And had he not perceived it, his faithful aſſiſtants would have informed him of it; for they would in their diſcourſe wind me in ſuch a manner, that ſometimes my bluſhes, and often my tears, explained it more fully than words could have done. On the knowledge of my weakneſs, Mr. Markland built his hopes of ſucceſs. He often wondered at my reſiſtance, but for ever expected it to fail. I ſometimes had nothing but tears to anſwer to his tendereſt profeſſions. I wept for ſhame at liſtening to them, and for grief at thinking it neceſſary to reject them.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

'Where more is meant than meets the ear.'

MILTON.

WHEN we were in London, Mr. Markland had ſtill more opportunities of ſeeing me. Sir George and my Lady were always abroad, or engaged in company. They ſeldom enquired after their ſon, thinking it the duty of polite parents to ſuffer him to take his own way; or if they happened to aſk any queſtions, the ſervants knew what to anſwer. Thus almoſt all his time was paſt with me. While I was buſy in attending my Lady at her toilette, he made his neceſſary viſits, that the reſt of the day might be his own.

I confeſs I was not always deſirous of avoiding him; but if I had, I could not eaſily have contrived it, for every ſervant was bought to his intereſt. I deſired the houſe-maid, who had leiſure in the afternoons, to come and work with me, thinking thereby either to prevent his coming, or at leaſt to put ſome reſtraint on his addreſſes. But he no ſooner entered, than ſhe retired; and I found, upon queſtioning her, that every ſervant had felt his bounty, either to procure their ſecrecy, or aſſiſtance.

Senſible of my own weakneſs, and how far every one was combined for my deſtruction, I had ſtill virtue enough left to wiſh that I could find ſome refuge againſt myſelf; but could ſee none, unleſs I could obtain it of my

Lady. Filled with this thought, I determined to apply to her for advice and aſſiſtance, acknowledging my own exceſs of paſſion, and giving her as little reaſon as poſſible to be angry with her ſon.

I waited with impatience for a ſummons to attend my Lady at her toilette, and took no ſmall pains to keep up my reſolution; which perhaps I had never been able to form, had not Mr. Markland been obliged that morning to go abroad with his father.

The time at length came; but to my great diſappointment, I was followed in by a country neighbour of her Ladyſhip's, who immediately deſired to ſpeak with her alone.

I was accordingly diſmiſſed, and not recalled till the arrival of more company; upon whoſe appearance the firſt lady took her leave. My purpoſe was equally diſappointed; four viſitors had taken the place of one.

One of the Ladies obſerved, that ſhe who was gone away, looked very melancholy. 'Had you 'been Miſtreſs to the king, or his prime miniſter,' added ſhe, 'I ſhould have thought you had juſt 'refuſed a petition.'

"The moſt ridiculous woman," ſaid my Lady; "ſurely, that ever was born! What do you think "is the ſubject of her affliction?" Here her Ladyſhip laughed ſo violently, that ſhe could not immediately anſwer their enquiry; tho' they all expreſſed great curioſity to know what it was.

"Would you believe," continued Lady Markland, "that all the exceſs of grief you ſee "painted on the poor woman's countenance, "proceeds from having diſcovered that her "ſon, a young man of about three-and-twenty,

"keeps

" keeps a miſtreſs; and ſhe came to communi-
" cate her ſorrows to me, hoping that from my
" friendſhip ſhe ſhould receive ſome compaſſion?"
Here they all joined in ſuch peals of laughter, as Comus's crew can ſcarcely equal

'And pray,' aſked one of the Ladies, 'what
' conſolation did your ladyſhip give her?' " Con-
" ſolation!" replied my Lady; " I aſked the wo-
" man, if ſhe expected her ſon to be a Joſeph?
" that no man of ſpirit is without intrigues: It
" was a male priviledge."

Is this the perſon, ſaid I to myſelf, to whom I meant to apply for refuge againſt her ſon's gallantry, and my own paſſion!

'A male priviledge, indeed!' anſwered one of the Ladies. 'We may ſee the men not only made
' laws, but cuſtoms. They have carved them-
' ſelves out pretty lives. They the primroſe path
' of dalliance thread, while they would confine
' us to the thorny way.'

'Do not be ſo ſevere upon them,' ſaid another.
' You forget that if none of our ſex were in the
' path, it would not appear ſo flowry: They can-
' not exclude us.'

" That," interrupted my Lady, " is an ad-
" vantage to women of an inferior rank; but
" people of faſhion cannot well make uſe of it.
" If Spencer's Sir Calidore had but been a real
" character, and the blatant beaſt, Slander, in fact
" killed, the caſe might have been different."

'If it is not killed,' interrupted another Lady,
' it has barked ſo long, that no-body regards it;
' for really women are now under almoſt as few
' reſtraints as men. But, pray, what is the
' woman this *unfortunate* Lady's ſon has pitched

'upon? Perhaps ſome-body very expenſive; and 'that may have its inconveniencies.'

"No," replyed Lady Markland; "the young "man has been humble enough; he has contented "himſelf with one of *Mamma*'s maids."

Here again the Ladies were highly entertained: But one of them obſerved, that 'ſhe thought the 'lowneſs of his taſte might be mortifying to an affectionate parent: There was a want of ſpirit and proper pride in it.'

In this manner the converſation was kept up, till two gentlemen arrived. My office being ended, I withdrew.

I heard with ſurprize ſo many women of character, who were ſo much my ſuperiors in age and experience, and conſequently I thought in wiſdom, to threat that as a priviledge, which I had looked upon as the greateſt misfortune that could befall me; and againſt which I wanted a defence, that I might better rely upon than my own reſolution. What Mr. Markland had ſaid to me on that ſubject, had leſs power over my judgment, than my affection gave him over my heart. His arguments came from a ſuſpected quarter; his intereſt was viſible, and therefore they had leſs weight; but when ladies, who had no ſuch inducements, confirmed his doctrine, how could I avoid ſuſpecting myſelf of thoſe ill grounded prejudices of which he ſo often accuſed me! My heart took advantage of this opportunity; and, with the aſſiſtance of ſuch ſtrong Authorities, ſilenced my reaſon and my principles.

Full of theſe thoughts, I retired to my chamber, where I found Mr. Markland waiting for me. He received me with a tranſport beyond what ſo ſhort a ſeparation could make me expect. The joy ſo viſible in his countenance, communicated

nicated itſelf to my heart; and I, who two hours before wanted to find a means of avoiding him for ever, was charmed at ſeeing him again. He told me, 'that no longer able to live without me, he had left his father at a chocolate houſe, and returned home with the utmoſt impatience.' Fatal impatience!

CHAP. V.

The friends though haſt, and their adoption try'd,
Grapple them to thy ſoul with hooks of ſteel.

SHAKESP.

WE had now been in London above four months. I had continued correſponding with my ſiſter; tho' not daring to communicate the thoughts that were uppermoſt in my mind, my ſtyle grew ſo conſtrained, and my letters ſo ſhort, that ſhe took notice of it; and more grieved than offended, expreſſed fears for my health, attributing to ſome defect in that, the alteration in my manner: for it wore the appearance of melancholy. But if ſhame for the weakneſs I felt in my heart made writing to her ſo difficult to me, it is not ſtrange, if, when guilt took its place, I was no longer able to write at all. I feared her advice, which was now the ſevereſt reproach to me; looked on myſelf as unworthy to addreſs her; ſo much did I reverence a conduct which I had not been able to imitate. From this time my correſpondence with her ceaſed. As it had ſlackened ſo much before, ſhe did not immediately obſerve it; but when a letter

of

of her's had remained above a month unanſwered, I received another from her, filled with the kindeſt anxiety and moſt alarming apprehenſions.

They did not now appear without foundation, for my health was impaired: I grew pale and thin; my chearfulneſs was changed into tears and ſelf-reproaches: For the little colour I retained, I was obliged to my bluſhes, which every eye that gazed on me, raiſed in my cheeks.

My Lady and Sir George obſerved the change, and very obligingly enquired into the nature of my complaints. I could by no means anſwer them with ſincerity: but invented ſuch diſorders, as I thought they could not eaſily diſprove.

The kind letter I have mentioned receiving from my ſiſter, having remained unanſwered, was followed by another, which informed me that ſhe was ſoon coming to town; that the millener with whom ſhe was, had a daughter now grown capable of managing the buſineſs; and therefore ſhe had got from her a recommendation to one of the ſame trade in London; and as ſoon as the terms were ſettled, ſhe ſhould come there with great ſatisfaction, as it would bring her near me.

This news filled me with diſtreſs. How could I, who was not able to take courage to write to her, bear her ſight, who would ſo circumſtantially examine me about every particular of my ſituation and conduct; and whoſe eyes would no leſs exactly obſerve my perſon, which I had reaſon to believe would ſoon appear as viſibly altered as my face?

I could not conceal my uneaſineſs from Mr. Markland, who was both the cauſe and the conſolation of all my ſufferings. He told me, it only

only confirmed him in a purpoſe which he intended to propoſe to me; which was, to place me in a houſe, where I might live free from the continual apprehenſions I now was in, and enjoy the eaſe and affluence I ſo well deſerved; that it was but reaſonable, that ſhe who poſſeſſed his whole heart, ſhould at leaſt ſhare his fortune. To ſee me ſo ſettled, would render him very happy, as he could then enjoy my converſation without reſtraint and interruption; and he flattered himſelf, that he ſhould ſee leſs melancholy mixed with my tenderneſs, which was now an abatement to his felicity. He added, that he had conſidered of the impoſſibility of my attending his mother into the country; ſince a few months muſt affect my ſhape ſo as to render it apparent to her; and therefore he had intended to deſire me to find ſome excuſe for giving her notice that I ſhould leave her, before the true cauſe could be perceived: and he was glad, that while he was gratifying himſelf in withdrawing from a ſtate of ſervitude the woman, who in all eyes but thoſe of the prieſt's, muſt be looked upon as his wife (for as ſuch he ſhould ever eſteem me in the tendereſt ſenſe,) he ſhould remove me from a ſiſter, whoſe prejudices might be the occaſion of much trouble to me.

This propoſal was indeed a great relief to my ſpirits: I longed to be removed from the eyes I feared; but could find no good excuſe for leaving my Lady. However, as the beſt I could invent, I took the firſt opportunity of informing her, that a relation in the country, whom I durſt not diſoblige, inſiſted on my coming to live with her.

Lady Markland ſuſpected the truth of what I ſaid; and told me, ſhe wiſhed it was not another

kind

kind of invitation that carried me away. 'But, 'girl,' added she, 'depend upon this; all your 'beauty will not keep one lover, tho' it may 'gain you a thousand. After a short possession, 'a woman not half so handsome will appear pre-'ferable, and you will be left on the common.

Tho' I had no reason to suppose her Ladyship inspired with any spirit but that of experience, I could not help been shocked at so dreadful a prophecy. Scarcely capable of answering her, and utterly unable to insist on the lye I had made, I with much difficulty, and with tears starting from my eyes, said, I hoped my behaviour had not given her Ladyship grounds for such a suspicion.

'No, no,' replied my Lady: 'I have no 'fault to find with your conduct. You seem 'mighty sober and modest; but I never in my 'life new a very demure girl come to any good.

I was glad to come off with so general a reflection; for I was not without apprehensions from what she had said, that she suspected part of the truth. As for the fears she had excited, as soon as I told them to Mr. Markland, he dispelled them all, by the kindest assurances of constancy and unalterable love: Professions, which, contrary to all experience, will, I fancy, be believed, while love and folly exist.

Lady Markland having soon another servant recommended to her, I obtained liberty to depart before my sister came to town, and was guided by Mr. Markland's servant to my new house, which was very pretty, and furnished in the neatest manner imaginable, tho' not expensively. Mr. Markland was there to receive me, and was delighted

delighted with ſeeing me ſo well pleaſed with it, and with perceiving it was ſo much beyond my expectation; for Vanity had not yet found its way into my heart; Love too entirely filled it all.

I was deſirous of putting my lover to as little expence as poſſible, therefore took but one ſervant; and endeavoured, by the regularity of my *menage*, to perſuade the neighbourhood, that I was his wife, but obliged to conceal that circumſtance during Sir George's life.

This opinion Mr. Markland gave all the colour to that he conveniently could; and indeed might ſafely do ſo; for whatever comfort my inexperience might draw from it, thinking I thereby avoided ſlander, he muſt well know that ſuch indulgences to women in my ſituation are ſo common, that they find credit with none but the very loweſt people; and that, inſtead of making a miſtreſs paſs for a wife, they often occaſion one who is really a wife, to be taken for a miſtreſs.

Sir George and Lady Markland did not ſtay long in town after I left them. Their ſon excuſed himſelf from going into the country with them, and by various pretences prolonged his ſtay.

He was now always with me, and always equally a lover. His tenderneſs continued unabated; tho' my frequent indiſpoſitions caſt a languor over my countenance, and deadened my complexion. Whenever I was tolerably well, he carried me to ſome of the places of public diverſion moſt frequented during the ſummer ſeaſon. They were entirely new to me. His converſation would have rendered any place pleaſing. It is not ſtrange then that I was delighted with places ſo calculated to entertain. He thought

the

the ſatisfaction I ſhewed in them a ſufficient reward for the trouble of attending me; for he had been ſo long accuſtomed to them, that they had in great meaſure loſt their charms to him.

Mr. Markland was extremely pleaſed at ſeeing me attract the notice of the company; and would, with particular ſatisfaction, make me obſerve the admiration that was paid: which was entirely overlooked by me, ſo wholly was my attention fixed on him. At firſt I was pleaſed at being admired, as I thought the approbation of others might recommend me the more to him; but at laſt I liked it for its own ſake. Vanity, which had ſo long lurked unſeen in my heart, began to grow perceptible; and the pleaſure of being admired, made the greateſt charm of a public place.

Mr. Markland was ſometimes obliged to go down to his father for about a week; but ſhort retirement urges ſweet return. He always left me with regret, and returned with impatience. Theſe little abſences were great afflictions to me; from having been ſo long habituated to his company, I knew not how to live a day without him; a week was an age; and I became almoſt as inſenſible as a ſtatute, till again cheered by his preſence. I every moment regretted the loſs of him; and ſometimes, I confeſs, lamented that I was deprived of admiration; for when he was away, I never went abroad, unleſs ſome family buſineſs carried me: ſo that I not only loſt the pleaſure of my heart, but the delight of my vanity.

Towards the end of autumn, during one of theſe ſhort excurſions, I walked out to make ſome ſmall purchaſes. In my way I went thro' a ſtreet which I had not been in before; and going

going by a millener's ſhop, I ſtepped in for ſome little thing I wanted; when the firſt perſon who offered to ſerve me, proved to be my ſiſter. We were both ſo affected, that we became motionleſs for ſome time. My ſiſter recovering herſelf the ſooneſt, ran to me to embrace me; when caſting down her eyes, ſhe perceived the alteration in my ſhape; and inſtead of coming up to me, ſunk down into a chair, where a flood of tears relieved her.

I ſtood in no leſs want of relief, but could find none. I was almoſt ſuffocated with the ſtruggle in my breaſt, between the various paſſions that affected me. My ſiſter, ſeeing the condition I was in, cried out, 'Oh! my poor Emily!' And leading me into a parlour behind the ſhop, called for ſome hartſhorn; and when ſhe had brought me to myſelf, 'Oh! my dear child,' ſaid ſhe, 'what can I ſay to you! How can I bear to ſee 'you in the condition you appear in! And yet, 'how dare I ſay what I would, when I fear that 'even the ſight of me may have done your con-'ſtitution irreparable miſchief! I would not in-'creaſe the ſhock I have given you; and yet 'can I, with any degree of propriety, ſee you a-'gain? The account I received at Lady Mark-'land's door, when I went with the moſt tender 'and anxious impatience to enquire after you, is 'but too well confirmed. O thou fallen Angel! 'how can my fond heart ſupport the ſight of 'thee, thus involved both in preſent and future 'miſery!'

I could anſwer only with my tears. I threw myſelf on my knees, and catching hold of hers, my ſtreaming eyes begged for pardon, but my words could find no utterance, till at laſt I got power enough to ſay, 'Forgive me, my deareſt 'ſiſter!

'ſiſter! My parent, beſt of friends, forgive
'me!'

'My deareſt ſiſter,' ſaid ſhe, 'aſk not for-
'giveneſs of me: Aſk it of him whom you have
'moſt offended, and who not only can pardon the
'paſt, but preſerve you from all future crimes.'

My ſiſter thus continued her exhortations for ſome time, till ſhe aſked me, 'If I would quit
'the way of life wherein I was engaged, and ne-
'ver ſee the man who led me into a ſtate of ruin
'and deſtruction; promiſing, that if I conſented
'to this, ſhe would take all poſſible care of me,
'and provide me with every convenience; For
'tho' ſhe was then going to be married to a
'young man, who was a very advantageous match
'for her, and whom ſhe ſincerely loved; yet if
'he, diſapproving of her conduct in this parti-
'cular, ſhould attempt to reſtrain it, ſhe would
'for ever forego all her expectations, and ſhould
'think herſelf greatly rewarded by ſaving me
'from eternal ruin.'

What could I ſay, when I could not reſolve to accept of ſo kind, ſo generous an offer! 'I begged her not to oppreſs me with her
'goodneſs: That I was not deſerving of her
'care; and would never ſuffer her affection
'for me to prevent her happy eſtabliſhment:
'Wiſhed heaven might ſhower down all its
'bleſſings on her; but that as for myſelf the
'die was caſt; I was too far engaged to re-
'treat.' She again preſſed her offer: I told her,
'I could not deprive the child I went with of
'a parent; nor was it poſſible for me to for-
'ſake a man whoſe whole happineſs was cen-
'tered in me, and who deſerved every thing

'from

from me, having no aim but to promote my felicity.'

When my ſiſter found me unalterable in this reſpect, 'Then,' ſaid ſhe, 'my dear Emily, I will not urge what I might properly ſay, becauſe I fear to hurt your health: I will not now endeavour at what I ſee your paſſions would render ineffectual to any purpoſe, but that of making you uneaſy, when eaſe of mind will be moſt neceſſary to your recovery: I can only pray that your life may be ſpared till you are fitter for another world; and that He who alone can turn the heart, will take compaſſion on yours: But it is impoſſible for me to ſee you any more: it would only be increaſing my wretchedneſs and creating yours. The thought of the ſituation you are in will embitter my moſt proſperous days; but it is my duty not to ſuffer it to diſgrace them.'

I cried out, in an agony which no words can expreſs, 'My deareſt ſiſter, do not deſpiſe me, do not hate me: Your hatred or your contempt would break my heart.'

'No, my deareſt Emily,' replied my ſiſter; 'be aſſured I can never hate or deſpiſe you: I ſhall pity, grieve, and pray for you; but with all your faults, muſt love you; love you with a tenderneſs none but a parent can know; for ſuch I have always felt myſelf for you: And whenever you will love yourſelf as truly as I love you, ſhall with joy receive you, forget the paſt, hope for the future, endeavour to relieve your griefs, and confirm your happineſs.'

With many tears and embraces we took leave of each other. A chair was called; for I was not

not able to walk; my body felt ſo ſtrongly the effects of the agitation of my mind.

I never was ſo ſenſible of the ſacrifice I had made Mr. Markland, as when I returned home and reflected how true, how amiable a friend I had given up for him. When I conſidered my ſiſter's whole conduct, how little did I appear in my own eyes! I do not know how I could have ſupported the view of my own meanneſs, had not Mr. Markland arrived in town, and reſtored me to my vanity; for nothing but vanity could preſerve me from my own contempt; for I think I may properly give that name to an opinion that exceeds what we deſerve.

A young woman called at my door, to inquire after my health, for two or three days ſucceſſively, after this interview with my ſiſter, who I judged was ſent by her, in kind anxiety, leſt the great flutter of my ſpirits ſhould have impaired my conſtitution. After that, I heard nothing of her; nor durſt I make any inquiries at that time.

CHAP. VI.

The world's a ſcene of changes; and to be
Conſtant, in nature were inconſtancy:
For 'twere to break the laws herſelf has made:
Our ſubſtances themſelves do fleet and fade:
The moſt fix'd being ſtill does move and fly,
Swift as the wings of time, 'tis meaſur'd by.
T'imagine then that love ſhould never ceaſe;
Love, which is but the ornament of theſe;
Were quite as ſenſeleſs, as to wonder why
Beauty and colour ſtay not when we die. COWLEY.

NO change happened in my way of life, 'till I was brought to bed of a very fine boy:

oy: Nor did this make any alteration, but my emporary illneſs, and the addition of this lovely hild to our family; which was an increaſe of appineſs. Our fondneſs for it was equal; and nſtead of our affections being leſſened, by having third to ſhare it with us, each ſeemed to look on he other's being parent to this little darling, as a ew merit, which cauſed, if poſſible, an increaſe f fondneſs.

The winter altered, not leſſened, our attendance on public amuſements; but we were obliged to go in a more private manner, as there was a greater chance of meeting with ſome of Mr. Markland's graver acquaintance. This caution, if I had not been loſt to ſhame, muſt have ſhocked me: but the violence of my paſſion, the extreme tenderneſs of Mr. Markland's behaviour, and the care he took to furniſh me with books, that ſhould in his abſence keep alive my infatuation, made me regardleſs of every thing elſe; and no one was ever diſpoſed to ſay more cordially from her heart,

Fame, Wealth, and Honour, what are you to Love!

A ſecond year paſſed away in this madneſs of the mind; but at the beginning of the third, I thought I diſcovered an alteration in Mr. Markland: He endeavoured to appear the ſame; but the tenderneſs of his behaviour, inſtead of being the free emanation of his heart, ſeemed forced and conſtrained. The impediments to his coming to me were multiplied: One would have thought that people were now making themſelves reparation for having loſt ſo much of his company, and were determined to engroſs him entirely. Even his child grew leſs dear to him, tho' every day more engaging.

At firſt I endured this change in ſilence, and

in tears I may add; for weeping was now my principal employ in his abſence; and I believe nothing could have prevented its being conſtantly ſo, but the fear of rendering myſelf odious in the eyes of him, to whom it was too grievous to be looked upon even with indifference. At laſt, I gently hinted my apprehenſions; but I found I gave offence becauſe I ſaw too clearly; and to avoid any thing that might make me loſe the little of his company which I now enjoyed, I determined hereafter to bear all in ſilence. But it is not in the power of language to deſcribe the anguiſh of my heart, nor the difficulty I found in concealing it.

In this wretched ſtate I continued for three months; a ſtate which ſeldom changes for a better, unleſs when it creates indifference in us, which, to ſome women, is almoſt as difficult a to conquer that of their lovers; and to add to my misfortunes, I was one of thoſe, who, obſtinately fond, can

Doubt, yet doat; deſpair, yet fondly love.

Cruel as I thought my ſituation, yet I found there was a ſtate of diſtraction beyond it; for into ſuch I was thrown by a letter brought me from Mr. Markland, wherein he acquainted me, that he was then at his firſt ſtage towards Harwich, where he was going in order to embark for a foreign port, having accepted an employment under one of our ambaſſadors.

The diſtreſs of my mind was now beyond what any one can comprehend, who has not ſacrificed all ſhe did or ought to hold dear, to one man, whoſe tenderneſs ſeemed for ſome time to recompenſe her for all ſhe had relinquiſhed, whoſe love conſtituted all her happineſs, and who at laſt, by the moſt cruel inconſtancy, threw her from

rom the airy height of bliſs to which he had ex-
lted her, into the loweſt abyſs of miſery.

Before the receipt of this cruel letter, I thought
ny grief could not admit of increaſe: To loſe
Mr. Markland's affection, appeared to me the
eavieſt misfortune: I did not then underſtand
ow ſoon a woman, who cannot poſſeſs a man's
eſteem, loſes all his regard when he ceaſes to love
er. But to be left with ſuch indifference! a
child abandoned without one parting kiſs! was a
ſhock too great for my conſtitution to bear. My
weak underſtanding was ſo ſhaken, that for two
days I was quite out of my ſenſes: To this a fever
ſucceeded, which was violent, but not tedious.

As ſoon as my ſhattered brain grew a little com-
poſed, anxiety for my child made me deſirous to
preſerve a life which ſeemed to promiſe me no-
thing but miſery: But what would I not have
undergone, rather than leave that dear babe friend-
leſs and defenceleſs, in a world which now was ve-
ry low in my eſtimation! For it is the way of us
all, if one perſon uſes us ungratefully, to quarrel
with the whole human race: Never ſenſible of
univerſal faults, till we ſuffer by thoſe of ſome in-
dividual.

Care for my child rendered me obedient to
all the orders of my phyſician, who told me, I
muſt not hope for recovery, unleſs I could compoſe
my mind to ſome degree of reſignation. This ar-
gument made me uſe every means to change the
natural current of my thoughts.

My little boy, as the only object now of my
affections, (and the only inducement for my en-
deavouring to raiſe myſelf out of that ſtate of
deſpair) I would have always with me; but how
often did that increaſe my grief, by reminding
me

me of his father! If he ſmiled on me, I thought I ſaw his father's ſweetneſs, which had charmed my ſoul: An endearing action brought to my remembrance his father's tenderneſs: If he was diverting, I ſaid to myſelf, 'How would theſe 'once have delighted his father!' If he looked pale, how would this air of ſickneſs have alarmed his father's fondneſs!

In ſpite of grief, my fever left me; and I found it neceſſary to reſolve on ſome means for my child's and my own ſupport. Mr. Markland had left no proviſion for us; but, as if he juſtly thought that after the loſs of his affection, every thing elſe was inſignificant, he was as regardleſs of leſſer particulars for me, as he might imagine I ſhould be for myſelf.

While Mr. Markland loved, he was generous; and as I was a good œconomiſt, I had near a hundred pounds by me; and having ſome cloaths, which were better than would be required in the way of life into which I intended to enter, I converted them into money; and turned the parlour, with little expence or alteration, into a haberdaſher's ſhop, laying out all my money in ſtock. I ſent my landlord warning that I would quit his houſe after the neceſſary notice, intending to take myſelf a cheaper habitation.

The execution of this purpoſe was of ſervice to me: It employed my attention, and gave me a ſubject to think of; which, tho' productive of no pleaſure, yet gave me no pain. I had not eaſe of mind ſufficient to be anxious about my ſucceſs; every thing appeared too trifling to move me much. As for my child, I wept over him, inſtead of rejoicing in him. I had now no affection but what gave me uneaſineſs: What I fancied was the ſource of ſublime happineſs, I found

was

was productive of the greateſt miſery. But my ſorrows were grown quiet; I was compoſedly wretched.

CHAP. VII.

I paſs'd this very moment by thy doors,
And found them guarded dy a troop of villains:
The ſons of public rapine were deſtroying;
They told me, by the ſentence of the law,
They had commiſſion to ſeize all thy fortune.

OTWAY.

I Did not ſucceed ill in my buſineſs; the humbled air which grief gave me, I believe ſoftened the rigid virtue of my neighbours; and as I ſold rather cheaper than moſt people in the ſame way of trade, in order to incite them to deal with me, I ſeemed well eſtabliſhed in about two months after I had furniſhed my little ſhop.

But great was my ſurpriſe, when one morning two men entered my houſe, who immediately arreſted me, and ſeized my goods.

I was more amazed at this inſolence, than frighted; for I was ſure I had incurred no debts, and therefore told them they muſt have miſtaken the houſe and perſon. Of which I had no doubt; but greatly was I ſhocked, when they informed me, that they were employed by my landlord, who had never received any rent from the time Mr. Markland took the houſe, nor payment for the furniture, with which, being an upholſterer and cabinet-maker, he had furniſhed him; and that he could eaſily prove that whatever I had belonged to Mr. Markland.

All the horrors of a priſon now preſented themſelves to my imagination : I eaſily perceived my ſtock could not diſcharge this debt ; and with little ceremony was told by theſe men, that nothing elſe could ſave me from a goal, and that I muſt go with them. What now to do with my child I knew not : to expoſe it to the colds and damps of ſo nauceous a place, ſhocked my nature : As for myſelf, had no other depended on me, I ſhould have been leſs anxious : I had reſigned myſelf to miſery, and which way it was brought upon me ſeemed of little conſequence. One relief I immediately felt from this misfortune ; the love which I had till now borne to Mr. Markland, whoſe inconſtancy I almoſt forgave, as a weakneſs in his nature, was entirely obliterated, by ſo mean and cruel an action as leaving me expoſed to ſuch infinite diſtreſs ; for he could not but know that his abſence would determine the landlord to take care of his own intereſt : And probably I ſhould not have been left ſo long in quiet poſſeſſion of the houſe, but that he might the more certainly get all I had, when my ſhop was furniſhed in the beſt manner I was able.

I now deſpiſed the man I could not hate, and no longer felt the pangs of ſlighted love ; but the terrors of my approaching fate took their place : I was weeping over my child, who, frighted at my agonies, was more clamorous in his grief, hung round my neck, and ſcreamed, he knew not why, only he perceived the men were the cauſe of my affliction : And as they, provoked at the noiſe he made, began to ſwear at him, he grew more terrified ; and with the aſſiſtance of the lamentations my maid uttered, who thought the degree of grief was to be meaſured by clamour,

mour, the uproar was great enough to bring in an old Lady, who came to hire a houſe at the next door to me.

She had been to ſee it the day before, and had taken notice of my child, with whom I was ſtanding at the door, and aſked me ſome queſtions about the neighbourhood, more, in appearance, for the ſake of converſation than curioſity.

This Lady, as I ſaid, was attracted by the clamour ſhe heard in my houſe, and came in to aſk the cauſe of it.

The bailiffs were the moſt able to ſpeak, and gave her a ſurly anſwer; but one which was ſo much to the purpoſe, that in a few words they made her comprehend the whole matter.

She came up to me, and enquired if the balance againſt me was great. I told her I could not tell how that might be, as I knew not what difference could be made in the valuation of the goods, when they came to be appraiſed, from what they had been ſold at; but that it ought not to be conſiderable, for the damage was ſmall, they having been always uſed and kept with great care: That except this difference, the balance on either ſide could be but trifling, for my ſtock would anſwer the rent; but that to one who had nothing, a debt of thirty pounds was as bad as one of three-hundred, and muſt render me equally inſolvent.

She then aſked the men what they deſigned ſhould become of me till the affair was ſettled: They replied, I muſt either go home with them, or to goal.

"Have you no-body," ſaid ſhe to me, "to "be bail for you?" "No one," anſwered I; for my ſiſter was the only perſon to whom I could apply, and I would not harbour a thought of

making her a greater ſufferer by my ill conduct than ſhe already had been, or of running the leaſt hazard of cauſing any difference between her and her huſband; for long before this time I imagined ſhe was married. I was ſenſible that if ſhe knew my diſtreſs, ſhe would be anxious to relieve it; and as her huſband might not chuſe to give his money to one ſo unworthy, diſputes and diſguſt might ariſe on the ſubject.

'It is hard,' ſaid the old Lady, 'you ſhould 'know no-body who will perform ſuch an act of 'humanity. Tho' I am not fond of having any 'thing to do where the law is concerned, yet I 'cannot withhold my aſſiſtance from one who is 'in ſo very diſtreſsful a ſituation, and who ſeems 'born to ſuffer from the cruelty of mankind. I 'will bail this young woman, and will take upon 'myſelf the ſettling her affairs:' [Turning to the bailiffs.]

I was all gratitude: A thouſand bleſſings and a thouſand thanks I gave her. But the men were not ſo ready to accept her offer; they ſaid they muſt firſt enquire into her character and ſubſtance, and know whether ſhe was reſponſible.

'If you have any doubts of that kind,' ſaid ſhe, 'let the goods be appraiſed directly: The 'day is long enough for ſettling the whole affair.'

This propoſal was agreed to; my landlord was ſent for; my ſtock in trade was valued by the bills of what I had paid for it, and appraiſers determined the value of the furniture.

My benefactreſs had left me before my landlord came; and as evening grew on, I grew under great apprehenſions leſt prudence ſhould get the better of charity, and prevent her return: But before the whole was entirely ſettled, ſhe came; the balance was drawn, and I remained debtor

but

but about 20 pounds. She paid the money, and ſaid ſhe would require no conſideration of me but a note of hand, in caſe I ever ſhould be able to pay her; and as I was at a loſs where to go that night, offered to carry me home with her.

This additional kindneſs charmed me: My heart was inexpreſſibly relieved by ſuch generoſity: For the preſent I forgot the deſtitute condition I was in; I was delivered from immediate diſtreſs, and Mr. Markland's baſeneſs had relieved my heart from the tenderneſs which till then oppreſſed it; ſo that I think, entirely pennyleſs as I was, theſe were much the happieſt hours I had enjoyed from the time that Mr. Markland's affections began viſibly to alter.

My benefactreſs took me and my little boy into the coach, and we ſoon arrived at her houſe. She told me, that as my ſpirits had undergone a great deal of fatigue, and ſhe was to have ſome company that evening, it might perhaps be more agreeable to me to retire to my own room; to which ſhe led me, and ordered a ſervant to ſee that I had every thing I wanted; and then, taking her leave of me, wiſhed me good night; ſaying, ſhe feared ſhe would not be able to get to me again that evening.

I repeated all the acknowledgments my gratitude could ſuggeſt, and wiſhed her a reſt equally refreſhing to the infinite relief ſhe had given to my deſpairing mind.

CHAP. VIII.

Proſpects at diſtance pleaſe, but when they're near,
We find but deſart rocks and fleeting air:
From ſtratagem to ſtratagem we run;
And he knows moſt who lateſt is undone.

GARTH.

WHEN I was left alone, and began to reflect on the various events on that day, it ſeemed a general ſcene of confuſion; they had paſs'd in ſuch quick ſucceſſion, that the recollection made me giddy.

The variety of thoughts which all theſe things ſuggeſted to my mind, would have engroſſed my attention a long time, had not my little boy interrupted me; the buſtle of the day had wearied him. I put him to bed, and that being done, I began to obſerve the furniture of my room.

The furniture was old and tattered, and every thing very dirty; but had once been handſome. I was ſurpriſed at the condition it was in, as I imagined the miſtreſs of the houſe to be a woman of fortune, from the generoſity ſhe had ſhewn towards me; and from her age I expected ſuch a degree of œconomy, as would prevent ſo much dirt and rags. I wondered therefore, what could occaſion this appearance, and flattered myſelf I might be of ſome uſe in doing my beſt to repair the deſtruction, which ſeemed leſs owing to the ravages of time than to want of care.

A ſervant, not much more cleanly than my chamber, came to aſk me what I choſe for ſupper: I told her any thing the family had; I begged I might give no additional trouble. "My "miſtreſs," ſaid ſhe, "thought you might be "tired,

" tired, and want to go to bed before their ſup-
" per time, ſo ordered me to enquire."

' At what time do they ſup then ?' I aſked.
" It is quite uncertain," anſwered the ſervant ;
" ſometimes it is vaſtly late, but never before
" eleven."

I had been uſed to late hours at Lady Markland's, ſo was not ſurprized : I thought I had got again into the houſe of a fine Lady ; but, ſince that was the caſe, deſired a piece of bread and butter, which would be a ſufficient ſupper for me.

My requeſt was not ſoon complied with ; but as I heard many raps at the door, I eaſily gueſſed the ſervants were either buſied by the arrival of ſo much company, or it had made them forget me. It was near eleven o'clock before any one appeared again in my appartment, and then the ſame maid brought me part of a fowl, ſome punch and wine, telling me, that as ſhe had found the company came earlier than common, ſhe thought ſhe had better ſtay till ſhe could offer me a more comfortable ſupper than what I had ordered.

I aſked her if they had often ſo much company ; to which ſhe anſwered in the affirmative ; and added with an air of pride and ſatisfaction, ' ſhe did not believe there was a houſe in town ' that had more.'

I had obſerved while I lived at Sir George Markland's, that my Lady and many others piqued themſelves on having a great concourſe of people at their houſes, and that, to acquire the more honour, they would often ſtretch the truth as to the numbers that had been there the night before ; but I was diverted to find this pride deſcend to a ſervant, who, by her appearance, muſt be in the very loweſt place in the houſe ;

and wondered what advantage ſhe could find in her Lady's drums being more frequent or more crouded than other people's.

Being heartily tired, I went to bed as ſoon as I had ſupped; but had not been long aſleep before I was ſtarted with a variety of noiſes: ſome ſeemed laughing, others ſcolding, others at romps. I was terrified with the clamour; the firſt effect of my fear was jumping out of bed and bolting the door, and then I could attend to it with a litmore compoſure, but not without a thouſand apprehenſions, which, tho' the houſe grew pretty quiet about four o'clock in the morning would not ſuffer me to get any ſleep.

I aroſe early, but found the family were making themſelves amends for the time they had ſtolen from the night, for no body came into my room till near ten o'clock, nor had I courage to go out of it, to ſee if any one was up: The ſame ſervant whom I had ſeen the night before, then made her appearance, I aſked her if any diſaſter had happened, which occaſioned ſo much noiſe at ſo late an hour? "Nothing particular," ſhe anſwered. 'Is your company always ſo loud?' ſaid I. "Not "always," replied ſhe, "but ſometimes ſtill "more ſo." 'Indeed!' cried I; 'And pray 'how often may you have company;' "Oh! "every night," anſwered the girl, "whatever "houſe may be empty, ours is always full."

My apprehenſions had encreaſed during this whole dialogue, and now they were almoſt riſen to their greateſt height: But to remove all doubt I aſked her, whether their company conſiſted moſtly of gentlemen or ladies?

The girl laughed at the fooliſhneſs of my queſtion, and told me, 'they had few Ladies come 'there; not but a Gentleman might, if he pleaſ-

'ed,

'ed, bring a Lady, and they would be very gen-
'teely accommodated; but they ſeldom choſe it,
'as all her young Ladies were ſo handſome, it
'would not be eaſy to find any equal to them.'

I was indeed now paſt any doubt: Uncertainty, however anxious, would have been a bleſſing to this certainty, I thought I ſhould have fainted; and indeed I believe nothing could have recalled my ſenſes, which were juſt fled, but the ſcreams of the ſervant, who was ſo uſed to clamour, that ſhe did not think any moderate noiſe could be ſufficiently expreſſive of fear, and ſet up her pipes with ſuch a violence at ſeeing me ſink, pale and breathleſs, into a chair that ſtood by me, that ſhe not only called back my departing ſpirits, but brought two or three of the young *Ladies* whoſe beauty ſhe had been boaſting, into my room.

As my colour had not returned with my ſenſes, I ſtill looked more like a corpſe than one alive. The girl was aſked the occaſion of this diſorder, but could give little account of it: She told them, 'the young gentlewoman had been aſking her 'queſtions but the minute before, and ſhe could 'not imagine what was the matter.' My poor little boy, frighted to ſee his mamma look ſo pale, ran to me, and, by his tender and amiable careſſes, did more to recover me than all the attention of the young *Ladies*, who held ſalts to my noſe, rubbed my temples, and did all they thought requiſite for my relief; but their appearances counteracted their care, by terrifying me more than the other could revive me.

Uncomb'd their locks, and ſqualid their attire,
Unlike the trim of love or gay deſire.

The dirty rags in which they were cloathed, ſhewed their wretchedneſs. Their faces, which in the evening were to ſhine with borrowed charms, were now the emblems of decay and ſickneſs; ſwoln exceſs, riotous intemperance, and foul miſrule, were imprinted on each countenance.

I do not believe I could have quite recovered myſelf while they were in my ſight, but, fortunately for me, they were called to breakfaſt, from which my indiſpoſition excuſed me, and I was indulged with a diſh of tea in my own room.

When I was left alone the diſtraction of my mind found ſome vent, by tears and lamentations. I now felt a degree of diſtreſs beyond what I had yet experienced, or ever feared. How ſeverely did I arraign myſelf of folly, in having conceived no ſuſpicion of this wretched woman; and quarrelled with my heart for having ſeen her action in no ſuch very ſtrange light, as to ſuppoſe it muſt ariſe from any thing but generoſity. I thought that, in the ſame ſituation, I ſhould have done like her; and therefore was grateful, but not ſurprized: ſo far was my Candour in thus judging of her from adminiſtring any comfort to me, that I wiſhed my temper more ſuſpicious, tho' rendered ſo by defects in my own heart, from which it was now free: indeed, in this caſe, the moſt common prudence might have preſerved me; but I was rendered ſo ſenſeleſs by the terrors of my ſituation, that I was blind to every other danger.

I ſhall not tire you with endeavouring to deſcribe the agitation of my mind, which was far beyond all power of deſcription; but ſhall only ſay, that the priſon I had ſo much feared, now appeared to me an eligible aſſylum; and all my hopes

hopes were, that if I was found refractory to the purpoſes of the perſon who had thus bought me of myſelf, reſentment might tempt her to throw me into the goal from whence ſhe had ſo cruelly relieved me.

After breakfaſt was over, the woman, who the night before I had beheld with reverence and gratitude as my noble benefactreſs, came into my room; and taking hold of my hand with a fawning affectation of kindneſs told me, 'ſhe was ſorry to find I had been ſo ill; ſhe ſuppoſed it was occaſioned by what I had ſuffered the day before; but ſhe did not doubt but I ſhould ſoon recover, as my mind would forget all paſt diſaſters in her houſe, which was a temple dedicated to pleaſure;' and continued in ſuch intelligible terms, that no further explanation was neceſſary.

To ſit and hear the profeſſion of ſuch abandoned ſentiments, was an additional ſhock: Criminal as I had been, my deteſtation to this way of life was as great as if I had been more conſiſtently virtuous. I informed her, that 'ſhe was diſappointed in her views; but offered, if ſhe would forbear all attempts to induce me to comply, that I would with pleaſure ſubmit to the loweſt offices in her houſe, or rather what ſhe eſteemed the loweſt, and perform the part of her menial ſervant, till ſhe herſelf ſhould acknowlege that I had amply paid my debt.'

She told me, "that every word I ſpoke, "more fully proved my folly; for I muſt be ex"tremely ſilly indeed, to think ſhe would be "contented with my ſaving her three or four "pounds a year, when ſhe did not deſpair of "my gaining her as many hundreds, for the "firſt year at leaſt; and after that, by paint and

"dreſs,

"dreſs, I might make a very attracting figure "among the reſt of her girls."

All that prayers and intreaties could do, I tried without ſucceſs; and when that failed, I endeavoured to provoke her to ſend me to priſon: but all to no other purpoſe, than, as ſhe ſaid, to ſhew my folly, in ſuppoſing ſhe had not taught every paſſion, as well as every principle, to be ſubſervient to her intereſt.

All I uttered had no other effect than to make her give orders that I ſhould not be ſuffered to ſtir out of the houſe.

While I oppoſed her, ſhe ſet me at defiance, and threatened me with immediate revenge; which ſhe was too well able to execute, having every one at her command, and I no one to defend me. I therefore tried to delay what I could not repel; and by promiſing to endeavour to get the better of my reluctance, prevailed upon her to allow me time to learn to command my behaviour, which, in my preſent diſpoſition, might diſguſt thoſe ſhe choſe I ſhould pleaſe.

CHAP. IX.

Who can all ſenſe of others ills eſcape,
Is but a brute at beſt, in human ſhape. TATE.

UNDER this pretence, I obtained liberty to live entirely in my own chamber for a whole month, hoping ſtill that ſome fortunate accident might relieve me; but all in vain: At the end of that time, ſhe aſſured me ſhe would be fooled no longer, and made me dreſs myſelf with more than uſual care, in a gown and ornaments which ſhe provided for me; and told me, that

that ſhe would abſolutely bring a gentleman to ſee me that evening, whoſe generoſity ſhe ſo much extolled, that I had ſome hopes I might find him generous indeed; not in laviſhing money on a bawd, but in relieving the diſtreſſed. I found I had been promiſed to him, which proved that he paid high; but this was but a poor dependance for my expectations.

This wretched woman kept her word with a diabolical exactneſs. She introduced the gentleman pretty early in the evening, for expectation had made him come ſooner than her viſitors uſually did: She retired. I was ſorry to ſee how much this man was ſtruck with my appearance; it in a great degree damped my hopes; but deſpair encouraged me to proceed, and I began to attack his compaſſion in the ſtrongeſt manner I could, by uttering all the ſentiments of my ſoul. I kneeled at his feet, uſed tears and prayers to ſoften him, and did my utmoſt to excite his generoſity.

At firſt he ſeemed to think all this was mere hypocriſy, with a deſign to raiſe the value of his conqueſt; but he ſoon found I was perfectly ſincere, and with joy I perceived him affected. This animated me ſtill more, and I purſued my intreaties till he granted them, and told me he would deſire no more of me than that I would inform him how, in ſuch a diſpoſition, I could come into that houſe.

I then related to him the whole affair, ſuppreſſing only the manner in which I had lived with Mr. Markland, whom I called my huſband: Not, I think, out of pride: I was too much humbled to attempt to conceal even my crimes; but I feared, if he knew this circumſtance, he would have leſs regard to my petition; and think my having offended with one man, gave every

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every other a right to expect I ſhould be the ſame to them.

When I had ended my ſtory, the gentleman told me I might judge of his compaſſion from the mortification he inflicted on himſelf; for that, tho' he was much attached to the ſex in general, and had always been ſo, he had never ſeen a woman he thought half ſo lovely as myſelf; that ſhe who had the diſpoſing of me was ſufficiently ſenſible of my charms, as appeared by the price ſhe ſet upon me; which, however, he was much more willing to loſe, than to give up his title to me; but to ſhew me he could be generous to virtue as well as to vice, he would relinquiſh both, and at my deſire, pretend himſelf better ſatisfied with my conduct than he had reaſon to be; for I had begged he would not betray me to the woman, whom I now beheld with as much horror, as I had once done with gratitude.

That he might be the better credited, he ſat with me near two hours after he had made me this promiſe. I wiſhed he would have ſecured me from perſons leſs generous than himſelf, by redeeming me from this horrid place, but durſt not hint my deſire, for fear of offending him; and he ſtifled my hopes, by obſerving to me, how impoſſible it was for me to eſcape out of it, for that the money which ſhe had laid down for me, would be but a ſmall part of my debt; ſhe would charge ſo much for my board, and the cloaths I had then on, that would run it up to a much more conſiderable ſum.

After having repreſented all this to me, and the impoſſibility of my prevailing with other men as I had done with him, he endeavoured to perſuade me to ſubmit patiently to my lot, and not to grant to one leſs generous, what I denied

to

to him; promiſing that I ſhould ſhare his bounty, whereas it commonly was diſpenſed only to the perſon who claimed the power of ſelling us.

He bore my refuſal of this propoſal as generouſly as he had done the firſt, and took his leave of me in the politeſt manner, and, if I may be allowed to form any judgment from his appearance, with real concern for me.

As ſoon as the gentleman was gone from the houſe, the old woman, and ſome of the young ones who were diſengaged, came to me, and carried me down into a ſmall room to ſupper, where none but ourſelves were admitted; not ſo much to indulge me as a reward for my good behaviour, as becauſe I was thought too valuable while new, to be expoſed to common eyes.

My odious companions were all in very good humour, and I was ſo delighted with, and, encouraged by, my ſucceſs, that I had never before appeared ſo eaſy. I flattered myſelf I ſhould continue as fortunate as I began, and the effect this hope had upon me, gave room for a ſuppoſition that I was grown better reconciled to my way of life.

I was not to continue long in doubt, whether my arguments would be always equally prevalent; the next day brought freſh occaſion for my rhetoric. The appearance of the man was leſs encouraging; he wanted the politeneſs of manner and good-natured countenance, which was remarkable in the other; however, I was not turned from my purpoſe by my fears of failing in it; on the contrary, I was animated by deſpair more than before by hope, and by my tears and averſion, extinguiſhed all thoughts of pleaſure or of love in his rugged breaſt; but leaving me with curſes, he went to the old woman, and beſtowing ſome oaths on her,

made

made her refund the money ſhe had received from him.

This threw her into a violent rage, and not being able to vent it on him, I muſt neceſſarily fall the victim. She brought up with her into my room three of her young women, who, angry that I ſhould by my conduct ſhew a diſapprobation of theirs, were fit to aſſiſt her in executing her wrath on me; accordingly they fell on me with the utmoſt fury, and beat me in the moſt mercileſs manner, till one of them hit me ſuch a blow on my temples as ſtruck me ſenſeleſs to the ground.

As murder was a crime which was not profeſſed in this infamous houſe, they were alarmed leſt they had killed me; and fearing the conſequences of their rage, put me to bed, and took all poſſible care to bring me to myſelf.

As ſoon as they had done ſo, I found my perſon was one general bruiſe. I was ſo ſore, I knew not how to lie or move; but my greateſt pain was in my eye, near which the laſt blow was given. It was ſoon ſo ſwelled up, I could not ſee; and as defacing me did not at all anſwer the wretches purpoſe, they omitted no care to remedy the ill they had done, plaiſtering me up in the manner they thought moſt likely to haſten my recovery.

I was in hopes they had put out my eye; ſhocking as the thought was, it appeared in a deſirable light to me, as I might reaſonably expect from it a total diſmiſſion from that houſe, where I could be of no value when ſo disfigured. I had ſuffered too much by my beauty to be anxious for the preſervation of it, and one eye might guide me to a more comfortable livelihood, than I was likely to gain in the houſe where I then was.

Theſe thoughts made me take off the things they

they applied to my eye whenever I was alone, if poſſible, to prevent my cure; but, in ſpight of my endeavours, the ſwelling abated, and I found my ſight had received no hurt; but the blood ſettled round it, I had ſuch a black eye, as rendered me too rueful a ſpectacle to be produced.

This accident obliged me to be concealed for above a month; for it was thought imprudent to ſhew me till I was in full beauty.

This delay was precious, and I would have endured another beating for the like benefit; but they had ſuffered too ſeverely already for this exertion of their power, therefore they reſolved upon a method leſs detrimental to my perſon.

CHAP. X.

———Famine is in thy cheeks,
Need and oppreſſion ſtaring in thy looks,
Contempt and beggary hang on thy back. SHAKESP.

AS ſoon as I was thought to look tolerably well, the infernal woman told me that all my reſiſtance would be in vain; that my ingratitude had quite diſguſted her, and ſhe was reſolved no longer to ſhew me any indulgence, but would expoſe me to the addreſſes of people too low and brutal to regard my tears, till I was broke off my niceneſs; and would ſend my child to the officers of the pariſh where it belonged, for ſhe ſhould no longer gratify me with its company, when I ſhewed ſo little conſideration for her.

Theſe menaces were dreadful indeed; and to talk of expoſing my little darling to the cruelty of pariſh-officers and nurſes, was too much to bear. Enraged at ſuch a monſter, I replied, 'The law

'would

" would grant me ſome redreſs againſt ſuch inhu-
" manity.'

" The law! thou idiot," anſwered ſhe, " Doſt
" thou take lawyers for knights-errant, who have
" nothing to do but to deliver diſtreſſed dam-
" ſels? Know, that money only can obtain juſ-
" tice; thoſe who cannot buy, muſt go without
" it; the redreſs of the law is out of the reach
" of poverty; content yourſelf, there is no law
" for you. But I ſhall not give myſelf the trou-
" ble of ſaying any more to you; I give you till
" to-morrow to chuſe; either determine to con-
" quer your ſqueamiſhneſs, or I ſend your brat
" away, and deliver you up to the firſt man who
" will diſregard all your tears and intreaties. Your
" will ſhall make no other difference in the caſe,
" than in the degree of your lovers, and your
" brat's fate."

With theſe words ſhe left me to conſider the alternative. The dear babe underſtood ſomething of being ſent from me, and running to me, hung round my neck, crying he would not go away without me, and begging me not to let that woman take him.

Alas! dear Innocent, I did not mean it: I could much ſooner have parted with my life. The wretch had now found the means of ſubduing my reſolution. Delicacy, for by that name, not by the ſacred one of virtue, I muſt call my reſiſtance, after a conduct ſo criminal as mine: Delicacy, I ſay, gave way to maternal love: Nor could the latter boaſt any great triumph; for I had no proſpect of gaining any advantage by my further perſeverance; on the contrary, I was only likely to be expoſed to the greater inſults.

The declaration of my reſolution was received the next day with great ſatisfaction; I was flattered and careſſed, and my child fondled; but I could

could not be ſenſible to kind treatment ſo obtained.

In this deteſtable houſe I had remained about a month after this, when the old woman was taken ill of a violent fever, occaſioned by having eat and drank immoderately for ſome nights ſucceſſively. This illneſs put a ſtop to her trade; and three days carried her into a world, where one cannot think of her without horror.

As ſoon as ſhe was dead, a relation came to look into her effects, who had been aſhamed to own any connexion with her infamy; but at her death was willing to receive the profits ariſing from her crimes.

By this accident we were all ſet at liberty; what became of the reſt I know not; I was too glad to get clear of them all to make any inquiries; but for my own part, my joy at this releaſe was beyond expreſſion.

The beſt cloaths that were worn by us were ſold; but thoſe of leſs value were given amongſt us; and the notes of hand, and ſuch other obligations as had been uſed as means of getting us into her power, were cancelled, the purpoſe of them being too well known to her relation.

I was quite deſtitute of money, for our pockets were ſearched every morning, ſo that what preſents any gentleman made us were ſure to be taken away; therefore I ſold the beſt gown which had fallen to my ſhare, in order to ſupport me till I had found ſome means of gaining a ſubſiſtence.

Senſible that I ſhould find great difficulty in maintaining myſelf and child, I took the cheapeſt lodging I could find, only mending it by cleanlineſs. I then enquired for plain work; but received every where for anſwer, that they could not truſt their things to a ſtranger; they were acquainted

acquainted with people enough who wanted such employment; they need not give it to one they knew nothing of.

This was a melancholy anſwer, I now thought I would try to get a place; but when I offered myſelf, one ſaid, 'I was too handſome;' another, 'that I appeared too genteel for ſuch a 'place as I offered for,' (not daring to attempt any high one, as having no hopes to get it) and 'there muſt be ſomething very bad in my con-'duct, or I could not be reduced to ſuch low 'ſervices.' Thoſe who were not deterred by my appearance, aſked, What recommendation I had? Who would give me a character? In this manner I was repulſed from every door, and found that one who can do no work but what great numbers of others do as well, may be reduced to want employment. I now wiſhed I had learnt of my ſiſter a variety of works, ſome of which might have afforded me a ſupport; for people are leſs nice in thoſe they employ, for things they cannot eaſily get done elſewhere.

I was now reduced to manifeſt danger of ſtarving. I would have attempted the moſt laborious work, but no one would try me in what I am afraid I ſhould have acquitted myſelf but ill, tho' I offered my labour at half price; but even my induſtry was made an argument againſt me, 'I 'muſt be very bad to be reduced to that, and 'they ſuppoſed I intended to ſteal the other half 'of my wages.'

In this deplorable condition I determined to apply to my ſiſter. I did not now live in actual ſin, and therefore could do it with the more courage. By enquiring at the millener's where I had ſeen her, I learnt her abode, and thither I went. Variety of misfortunes had altered me extremely. My ſiſter was in her ſhop, and rejoiced

iced to ſee me, hoping, by my venturing to
er again, that I had reformed my conduct; but
y changed countenance ſhocked her, and ren-
ered her reception of me more melancholy, but
ot leſs kind. Before we had time to interchange
any words, her huſband came in, who gueſſing
me by the deſcription ſhe had given him, very
bruptly told me, 'I was not fit company for
his wife, and deſired I would not frequent his
houſe; for all the ties of kindred were broken
by my infamy.

My ſpirits were lowered by diſtreſs, and I may
y by hunger, for I had taſted nothing for above
wenty-four hours; this cruel reproach, ſo ill
imed, ſtruck me to the heart: I was not able
o make any anſwer; but to avoid encreaſing his
nger, which ſeemed falling on his wife for hav-
ng received me, I withdrew, almoſt drowned in
ears, and ſcarcely able to ſupport the weight of
ny afflicted body.

A good woman paſſed by me as I was dragging
myſelf along, and ſobbing as if my heart would
break, and being moved at my diſtreſs, put her
hand in her pocket, and pulling out a ſhilling,
aſked me, 'if that would do me any good?'

It is eaſy to be imagined that I received it with
oy and gratitude; in my diſtreſſed condition a leſs
ſum would have been a great relief. She ſeemed
happy in the good ſhe had done, and ſaid, 'She
wiſhed ſhe had more for me;' I bleſs'd her for
that ſhe had given me, and we parted.

I ſtopped in my way to buy ſome food for my-
ſelf and child with this timely ſupply, and was
there overtaken by a young woman, who told
me ſhe belonged to my ſiſter, who having given
her a wink after I went out of the ſhop, ſhe
gueſſed it was deſigned as a command to find
out

out where I lived, and therefore had followe
me.

I ſoon ſatisfied her curioſity, and then enqui
ing into the temper of my brother-in-law, whic
alarmed me for my ſiſter's happineſs; ſhe to
me, 'ſhe had never ſeen him ſo out of humo
'before.' That it was eaſy to ſee he was of
'very jealous diſpoſition; but her miſtreſs's co
'duct was ſo extremely prudent, that he had n
'ver had an opportunity of taking offence; a
'the entire confidence he had in her, and h
'ſincere affection for her, got the better of
'warmth natural to him; ſo that by the exce
'lence of her behaviour, and the ſweetneſs
'her diſpoſition, no married people lived mo
'happily together; and ſhe attributed his trea
'ment of me to a ſort of jealouſy, which ma
'him diſlike my having any intercourſe with h
'wife, as he imagined me not ſo prudent.'

I could not from my heart blame him, but ſai
I hoped my future conduct would plead my ex
cuſe; and expreſſed the fears I really felt, le
my going there ſhould occaſion any uneaſineſs be
tween him and my ſiſter, or make her unhapp
by awakening her affection for me.

'Oh! Madam,' ſaid the young woman, 'i
'would admit of no awakening; for my miſtre
'is continually talking of you, and weeping ove
'your remembrance, whenever my maſter is no
'preſent; for he does not like to hear her men
'tion you. Some time ago ſhe ſent me into th
'ſtreet where you did live, to enquire after you,
'but the account I received was ſuch as increa
'ed her affliction.'

"What was told you?" ſaid I.

'I do not know how to anſwer you,' replie
ſhe, 'but I was informed you was gone to a ba
'houſe.'

"I wa

" I was indeed," ſaid I; " but not knowingly: However blameable I have been, there I am ſure I deſerved compaſſion; and whoever knows all I have ſuffered, if they are not ſtrangers to pity, will forgive me my faults, in conſideration of the puniſhments they have brought with them."

The good-natured girl could not forbear joining her tears with mine; and perhaps curioſity would have detained her longer, could ſhe have hoped to have learnt any particulars; but ſhe muſt have ſeen I was not in a condition to talk much, and I was in haſte to return to my child, and carry him ſome food; tho' he ſtood not in the ſame need as myſelf, for I had a little bread left, which I gave him that morning, and that ſufficed for a tolerable meal.

CHAP. XI.

Oh! that I had my innocence again;
My untouch'd honour! but I wiſh in vain:
The fleece that has been by the dyer ſtain'd,
Never again its native whiteneſs gain'd. WALL.

THE ſame young woman came to my lodging the next day; tho' it was a wretched hole, it pleaſed her by its cleanneſs. My poor little boy ſhe admired extremely, but I could not help feeling diſtreſſed, at having reaſon to be aſhamed of a child, of which ſo many great families would be vain; but his charms could not wipe off the infamy of his birth; an infamy, which, in juſtice, belongs only to the parents.

As ſoon as we were ſeated, ſhe delivered me a letter from my ſiſter, wherein ſhe acquainted me,

me, 'That she could no longer find any com-
'fort in plenty, since she might not impart it to
'me. That as all her stock in trade belonged to
'her husband, she could not without being guilty
'of a criminal injustice, attempt to appropriate
'to herself any thing out of what she sold; and
'that as her expences had always, by choice,
'been very small, it was but little she should be
'able to assist me with at present, as her hus-
'band would be watchful; but that she hoped in
'a month or two he might have me less in his
'thoughts, and then she should find the means
'of supplying me more suitably to her own in-
'clinations.

This was mixed with expressions infinitely kind, and very valuable, as coming from the sin-cerest of hearts. She had, I found, never been used to ask him for any money; when she bought any thing, the bill was brought him, and he paid it, and would have done so with pleasure, if it had been a much greater sum. If she had any immediate call, she took it out of the produce of the shop, and in settling the account, told him what it was for. There was such entire har-mony between them, that this became her cus-tom, as the easiest way; but now she regretted it extremely, and yet knew not how to break through it.

I saw her difficulty plainly; it was insurmount-able, and I had nothing left me but to intreat her to run no hazards for me, for that nothing could recompense me for causing the least uneasiness be-tween her and her husband.

She desired me not to write, lest the letter should fall into his hands, and told me she should venture at nothing more than a verbal message till she had brought him into a better disposition toward

towards me: ſo in compliance, my anſwer was only by word of mouth.

Few queſtions were requiſite to inform my ſiſter's meſſenger of my great poverty, ſo ſhe ſtaid not long.

From time to time ſhe viſited me, bringing ſuch little relief as my ſiſter could ſecretly beſtow, but what ſcarcely ſufficed to pay for my lodging. However, this was a great conſolation to me; for little as the expence might ſound, it was a heavy burden on me, who neither had any thing, nor the means of gaining it; and my landlady's ſpirit made her require to have a week's pay in hand, not chuſing to give ſo ſhort a credit. Nor could I blame the woman; for where they are forced to let their rooms to ſuch indigent perſons as I was, if they were not to be rigidly exact, they would never receive their rent.

My ſiſter's ſituation being now added to the other impediments which prevented me from obtaining any ſupport, I was reduced below hope: Willing and able to work, and yet to ſtarve for want of employment, ſeemed a hard fate, but touched no heart but my own. In this extremity, the humanity ſhewn me by a ſtranger in the ſtreet, determined me to try if caſual charity would afford me any relief; and in the bitterneſs of my ſoul, I ſet out with my child to aſk the charitable benefactions of paſſengers.

But here my ſucceſs was ſmall: I found that beggars had a ſociety among them; that the town was divided into ſo many ſhares, and to every one was appointed their particular diſtrict, from whence they drove every interloper, by means too formidable for me to contend with, who feared almoſt equally their oaths and their more forcible methods. Thus I had no places left me, but ſuch as were ſo little frequented,

they were not thought worth their notice. Like the firſt planters in a colony, they divided amongſt themſelves all but the barren lands.

Among the few who paſſed where I durſt attempt to beg, I ſeldom obtained any thing but reproaches for my idleneſs, in begging at an age when I was ſo capable of working. It was to no purpoſe that I told them I deſired nothing ſo much as work, and intreated them to try me, by giving me any employment. They would anſwer, 'That they ſaw I was newly entered upon 'that trade, and it would be a ſhame to encou-'rage me in it, as then I ſhould never leave it off.'

Sometimes I ſhould be ſo fortunate as to obtain a few half-pence from people whoſe compaſſion got the better of their reaſon, and who durſt not give me an abſolute refuſal, for fear I was indeed as near ſtarving as I ſaid I was. But theſe ſmall and uncertain benefactions would not preſerve two perſons alive, tho' uſed in the moſt ſparing manner. Sometimes for two or three days I ſhould not procure a farthing.

One time when I was thus reduced to the laſt extremity, myſelf almoſt ſtarved, and my child in the ſame condition, and piercing my heart with his cries; as the laſt effort, I dreſſed myſelf neatly, and went out to try if I ſhould have any better ſucceſs, as a higher degree of beggar; and left my poor boy with an old woman in the ſame houſe, who uſed to take care of him in my abſence, tho' ſhe was too poor to relieve his neceſſities.

I attacked many of my own ſex, who told me they never gave to begging gentlewomen: I then addreſſed myſelf to the other, and received a refuſal from the firſt; the ſecond told me if I would

would go with him to the next tavern, I ſhould be ſatisfied with his generoſity.

I anſwered him, that he miſtook my purpoſe; the ſmalleſt alms would content me, but that I could not leave that ſtreet. This occaſioned ſome altercation; each kept to their reſolution, till at laſt he produced five ſhillings to my view to ſtrengthen his arguments. A ſum, then, in my eſtimation, ſo conſiderable, at length prevailed.

I returned home to my famiſhed child, as ſoon as poſſible, carrying food with me, that I might receive ſome reward for money ſo ill gotten; and I confeſs my recompence was great, in ſeeing the dear babe, almoſt at the gates of death, revive as he eat, and the ſmiles of joy by degrees take place of the anguiſh which the pains of hunger had imprinted on his lovely face.

I preferred the trade of begging ſo much to the making a traffic of my perſon, that I endeavoured by purſuing it to make this little fund hold out; but without ſucceſs. I was at laſt attacked by the beadles, who receiving no gratuities from me, declared they would execute the rigors of their office if they ſaw me there again. Thus the little liberty I before had in this occupation was much reſtrained, and my gains ſunk to almoſt nothing.

The only conſolation I had, was the hope that my ſiſter would be ſuffered to countenance me ſo far, that by her recommendation I might obtain ſome employ; but every time her meſſenger came, diſappointment accompanied her. But ſtill I hoped on, and was often led by it to the utmoſt extremity of famine, till, no longer able to ſupport it, I reſolved to try the mains which had once ſucceeded, when I did not aim at it. How often, ſhocked at the odiouſneſs of my pur-

poſe, have I turned back, determined to ſuffer myſelf to die, rather than preſerve my life in ſuch a manner! But when I returned home, and ſaw the diſtreſs of my poor child, every other evil appeared light in compaſſion of his ſufferings; and I again fled from the anguiſh I felt at the ſight of him.

I ſeldom had far to go before I met with ſome gentleman, who, tho' hard-hearted to my diſtreſs, would be indulgent to his own vice. I often thought the cleanly ſimplicity of my dreſs, (for I had no ornaments) pleaſed more than the tawdry decorations of the women who generally follow that courſe, for while a man courts our vice, his reaſon hates our impudence.

I was ſenſible that, by entering into a ſociety of proſtitutes, I might gain a ſettled ſubſiſtence; but I could not think of engaging in a way of life I deteſted: I ſtill hoped ſome means would at laſt relieve my neceſſities, and that I ſhould not always be reduced to a proſtitution, to which I could not bring myſelf to conſent, till the ſevere pains of hunger, and the ſtill ſharper pangs I endured from thoſe my heart's darling felt, got the better of the little delicacy I ſtill had remaining. There could not be a more ſparing manager than I was of what I gained, as, while it laſted, I was freed from a courſe moſt odious to me.

CHAP. XII.

Want is a bitter and a hateful good,
Becauſe its virtues are not underſtood:
Prudence at once, and fortitude it gives;
And, if in patience taken, mends our lives.
For ev'n that indigence that brings me low,
Makes me myſelf, and Him above, to know:
A good which none would challenge, few would chooſe.
A fair poſſeſſion, which mankind refuſe. DRYDEN.

IN this manner I lived for near three months; the ſobriety of my behaviour at home giving no ſuſpicion to the people where I lodged, who were not uſed to be over curious in prying into the lives of their lodgers, which perhaps would ſeldom bear a ſtrict ſcrutiny. I concealed it equally from my ſiſter; ſenſible, that if ſhe knew it, the deſire of bringing me out of ſuch infamy and ſuffering would drive her to any extremities, to the hazard of all her conjugal happineſs. The vexation I had given, and ſtill gave her, was one of the ſtrongeſt afflictions; therefore I could not, for any conſideration, make her a greater ſufferer.

One day, when I was reduced ſo low that I had not ſufficient to purchaſe a ſupper for myſelf and child, my landlady came up to my room, and invited us to drink tea and ſup with her, it being her birth-day. Never did a royal birth-day give ſuch joy to the vaineſt lady. I doubt whether the birth of a child ever was more welcome to the perſon moſt anxious for an heir, than this good woman's aniverſary rejoicing was to me. We readily obeyed her invitation; and I was too

well pleaſed with the entertainment, to criticize the converſation of my company.

A little before ſupper, a man entered, who ſaid he was juſt come from the new *Hoſpital*, ſo he called it, and that every thing was now completely finiſhed; but he fancied it would be a long time before it was full.

'Do not talk of it.' ſaid my virtuous landlady: 'I have no patience with the gentlemen 'who give encouragement to ſuch wicked wretch-'es: Starving is too good for them.

I, who knew ſo well what ſtarving was, thought this was almoſt too cruel a ſentence for any crime; and begged to know who the wretches were ſhe ſpoke of.

I was anſwered with all imaginable plainneſs; and felt, that coarſe as the name was, I had too good a right to it; and therefore was enough concerned in the converſation to enquire what gave my landlady's virtue ſuch offence.

I then firſt heard of this bleſſed charity: I made all neceſſary enquiries about it; and could ſcarcely contain the joy I felt, at the ſmalleſt hopes of being one of the objects that ſhould be relieved by it.

Sorrow had robbed me of many nights reſt; joy had a good title to a tribute I had ſo ſeldom paid it: I could not ſhut my eyes that night; and the next morning, as ſoon as I thought the Secretary's Office would be open, I went thither; not without fears that my child would be a bar to my admiſſion; for I had heard of no proviſion being made for children.

My good fortune was without allay: I was not only accepted, but was told I might come the day but one after, and my child ſhould be taken care of.

To

To form an adequate notion of the rapture I felt, a perſon ſhould have been reduced to the ſame exceſs of miſery. My ſoul overflowed with gratitude, and my countenance ſhewn with joy. It is true, I found I muſt part with my child; but then I could have no doubt but he would be far better taken care of than I could ever expect he ſhould be while he depended on me. For his ſake, I could part with him; and ſhould find a conſtant conſolation for the loſs of him, in thinking how well he would be educated and provided for.

The ſatisfaction of my heart was ſo viſible, that at my return home, my landlady enquired what had made ſo great an alteration in me, for ſhe had before often taken notice of my melancholy; and uſed to tell me, ſhe wondered what could make one ſo young, and ſo pretty, look ſo diſmal. I once told her very frankly, that being ſo young and ſo pretty were the very things that made me ſo: But this I found was a riddle to her, which I did not chuſe to explain; nor did I now think proper to acquaint her with the real reaſon for the alteration ſhe obſerved; but informed her, that within two days I was to go to a good place, which I had obtained that morning.

I wrote a letter to my ſiſter, acquainting her where I had applied for an aſylum, and of the ſucceſs my application had met with; and added, that I hoped a courſe of regularity would ſo far waſh out the infamy from my reputation, that her huſband might in time ſuffer me to ſee her; which would always be neceſſary to my happineſs, but could never contribute to it, till ſhe was at liberty to act in that reſpect according to the dictates of her own heart, without the leaſt

chance of giving offence to the man on whom her happineſs then depended.

This letter I gave to my landlady, the morning I left the houſe; deſiring her to deliver it to the young woman who uſed to come from my ſiſter, the next time ſhe called there. And then I delivered my child where I was ordered; which I confeſs coſt me many tears; for the tenderneſs of the mother got the better of true maternal love, which ſhould have made me rejoice in this ſeparation. That ſevere pang being over, I came hither, and was received with a degree of humanity beyond my expectation. I expected relief; but I found from this good matron tenderneſs and pity, of which I was then the only object; but a very ſhort time encreaſed the ſociety, and rendered her humanity more extenſive.

Thus you ſee, in compliance with your deſire, I have expoſed all my crimes and follies; and given a ſtrong proof how much evil one bad action draws along with it Nor was I ſenſible of my wickedneſs when I applied to be received into this place: I ſought it as a refuge from diſtreſs and miſery; my heart grieved, but did not repent till I came hither, where I was ſhewn my ſins in their black colours; and, awakened to repentance by a ſenſe of guilt, was thought to apply for pardon to Him who came on earth to ſave ſinners.

The ſociety returned their thanks to Emily, for indulging their curioſity. She told them they could in no way ſo agreeably acknowledge it, as by following her example: which being readily promiſed, it was agreed that they ſhould proceed in the order in which they arrived at the houſe. A good expedient to avoid ceremony. How often have we ſeen ſome ſuch method neceſſary to adjuſt

juſt the ceremonial between people who have no title to place or precedency, nor can pretend to claim any to good as a priority of reformation!

CHAP. XIII.

Should ſome brave Turk, who walks among
His twenty laſſes, bright and young,
And beckons to the willing dame,
Preferr'd to quench his preſent flame,
Behold as many gallants here,
With modeſt guiſe, and ſilent fear,
All to one female idol bend,
Whilſt her high pride does ſcarce deſcend
To mark their follies; he would ſwear,
That theſe her guard of eunuchs were;
And that a more majeſtic queen,
Or humbler ſlaves, had not been ſeen. WALLER.

THE perſon who, according to the regulation agreed upon, was to have the precedency in talking of herſelf; a valuable privilege! was about three-and-twenty; tall and genteel; her complexion was brown, but her features good, and her countenance animated with a pair of the fineſt black eyes imaginable, which ſhone with a vivacity that diſtreſs could not extinguiſh. She began as follows.

My father was a very rich trader in a country town; and known to be ſo ſubſtantial, that it rendered him one of the principal people in it; an advantage of which I partook: For a tradeſman's daughter is as much raiſed above others who are included in the ſame claſs, by a little ſuperiority in wealth, as a lady of quality is by the

priority of her anceſtors admiſſion among the nobility. I had two brothers: and a ſiſter a few years older than myſelf, who had but one eye, and was beſides lame of a leg. She had ſenſe enough to ſee ſhe was not made to be admired in puplic, and therefore placed her ambition in ſhining in domeſtic life. Like moſt girls, ſhe had been taught to think marriage the ultimate end of her creation; and that woman was made for man, in a more humble ſenſe ſtill than our firſt mother, who had the perſon for whom ſhe was deſigned, ready to receive her as ſoon as created. My ſiſter looked on this as the peculiar privilege of the firſt of the ſpecies; and that all her female deſcendants were to wait till that ſuperior ſex ſhould pleaſe to accept them; which might never happen at all.

As ſhe was ſenſible ſhe muſt not expect their paſſions to be her friends, ſhe placed all her battery againſt their prudence; and by her œconomic virtues, hoped to conquer that entirely. The fortreſs ſhe attacked was not ſtrong; but unfortunately, when taken, the town was little nearer ſurrendering than before.

When my ſiſter obſerved the preference my perſon procured me, ſhe comforted herſelf with conſidering that it might gain me many lovers, but perhaps not one huſband; and paid ſo great a compliment to male reaſon, as to believe that one eye, which was always directed to ſome wiſe employ, muſt, by a man who thought of marriage, be held in higher eſtimation, than a pair of the brighteſt eyes, wandering in ſearch of admiration; and that one leg, which hobbled conſtantly in the road of œconomy and notability, was preferable to any two that were ever gadding abroad to places where flattery abounded.

For

For my own part, my prudence was leſs, and my conceit greater. I could not ſuppoſe, that ſo admirable a being, as I then thought myſelf, was made for any ſecondary purpoſe: But I did not trouble my head much whether I was made for man; I was ſure lovers were made for me; and when once, by reducing them to aſſume that character, I had deprived them of all pretence to ſuperiority, I concerned myſelf little what high ideas thoſe which were indifferent retained of themſelves: I left them to find charms in my ſiſter's humility and good houſewifery; and did nothing but carry myſelf to places where I might be ſeen; which appeared to me the ultimate end of my being.

The firſt beauty in a country town would be rather envied than deſpiſed by many fine ladies, if they were acquainted with all the gratifications her vanity receives. To be univerſally acknowledged as the prettieſt woman in the place, preferred by all the men in it, and addreſſed by every ſtranger who happens to arrive there, is a very flattering circumſtance: And as I make no doubt but many of my ſex have as much vanity as Cæſar had ambition, if they knew the life of a country beauty, they would ſooner chooſe to be the firſt woman in a ſmall town, than the ſecond in the moſt populous metropolis. Divided ſway never yields entire gratification: When a woman has a rival in admiration, ſhe is ſubject to many mortifications, and is kept in ſome degree of order by the fear of being ſupplanted: She is forced to controul her inſolence, and ſtifle a thouſand caprices, which, to one who is under the extremeſt intoxication of vanity, afford much gratification.

This was my way of thinking at that time, when vanity, unrepreſſed and unmortified, poſ-

ſeſſed my whole ſoul. I had no competitor, and felt myſelf of as great conſequence, and with as much reaſon, as ſhe who with conſcious dignity ſtruts about Bedlam with a ſtraw ſcepter and paper crown, convinced that ſhe is the ſovereign of that place. Where-ever I went I was attended by all the idle young men of the town; for every rank and every place affords a great number of thoſe who are ſuch by nature, or are eaſily made ſo by the firſt pretty woman, who, hanging out the colours of a profeſſed beauty, ſhews them where they may repair, and be ſure of an obliging reception: For ſuch an one values her charms in proportion to the number, not the merit, of her followers.

But what greatly encreaſed my train, was the ſituation of the town I lived in, which was but a very few miles from one of the Univerſities: This ſeminary of learning, as it is generally called, is much more certainly a nurſery of danglers. The boys will travel ſome miles to ſee a pretty woman, if the town wherein they are ſituated is not well ſupplied. Their vacant minds and unemployed eyes want amuſement; and they find more in gazing at a girl who has ever ſo few charms to boaſt, than in ſearching in Homer for a full deſcription of Helen's beauty. While they are young, no labour is too great that is ſpent in purſuit of a woman, whom their imagination has dignified with various attractions; and when they grow old, tho' they are become leſs volatile, they are not leſs danglers: But the time which before was ſpent in hunting a beauty, is now paſſed in a more lazy admiration, the ſcene of which is the fair one's ſhop.

By the advantages of its ſituation, no lady of the firſt rank, both in birth and charms, ever had a larger train of admirers; and perhaps few have

have made a greater progreſs in the arts of coquetry. The firſt part of the buſineſs of every day was adorning my perſon; for a beauty will not, any more than a Perſian monarch, appear without the outward circumſtances which add to her luſtre.

" *For beauty, like ſupreme dominion,*
" *Is beſt ſupported by opinion.*"

And ſhe who would maintain the character of her charms, muſt endeavour to render them at all times, and to all people, equally reſplendent. The taſk is laborious; the heroine who rants her hour upon the ſtage, finds ſome conſolation in deſcending to common life; and ſhe who more humbly perſonates the pert chambermaid, after the curtain is let down, may return to ſocial and ſerious converſe. The theatrical ſtateſman is not confined to a life of politics, nor the ſtage coquet to an endleſs repartee. But thoſe who on the greater theatre of the world aſſume any character, even tho' of a trifling ſort (for I cannot exalt very highly thoſe of a wit or a beauty) have condemned themſelves to never-ceaſing labour. She who will always dazzle with the charms of her perſon, or ſurprize by the force of her genius, without allowing the leaſt indulgence to ſickneſs, indolence, or ſtupidity, is a ſlave to that vanity which ſhe thinks exalts her to a kind of empire. Even the ſun does not ſhine with unabated luſtre; clouds will often eclipſe his glory, and ſometimes very nearly extinguiſh it; what then can reaſonably expect to dazzle with uninterrupted reſplendency!

No one has more reaſon to know the fatigues of being a beauty, for no one laboured more induſtriouſly in the calling than myſelf; and I have

have returned home ſo entirely weary of the labour that I had gone through, in exhibiting all my charms; ſometimes confining my ſpirits, that, by converſing gravely, I might wear an awful dignity on my countenance; at others, in ſpite of a depreſſion on my ſpirits, affecting vivacity and mirth, to ſhew the brightneſs of my eyes, and the various dimples in my cheeks; I have, I ſay, returned home ſo tired with acting a part quite contradictory to the turn of my mind at that time, that I do not know whether I ſhould not have given up my profeſſion, and, laying aſide the beauty, have turned a rational woman, if my ſiſter had not, when ſhe fancied, by my gravity, that I had met with ſome diſappointment, been always ready to pique my pride, by telling me, that

Beauty ſoon grows familiar to the lover;
Fades in his eye, and palls upon his ſenſe;

With every thing elſe to the ſame purpoſe with which her reading could furniſh her. Nor was ſhe always content with quoting all ſhe could find in poetic authors ſuitable to her deſires, but would borrow from divine writ; and when I had got the better of all her verſes by an inundation of lines that contradicted hers (for which I could not be at a loſs, as poets have generally been of my ſide of the queſtion), then ſhe would confute me by Solomon's authority, and tell me 'that 'favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:' Nor could I ſilence her by obſerving, that, vain as it was, it got the better of Solomon's wiſdom: Self-love fixed her opinion ſo firmly, it was not in my power to bring her over to mine.

This ſort of oppoſition would revive my wearied ſpirits; and to ſhew her the power of beauty was

was not of ſo very ſhort duration, I would again commence my labours, to renew its triumph.

However, intoxicated as I was with the worſt fever of the brain, that of vanity, I was ſenſible I had no great ſhare of beauty to boaſt. I knew how much obliged I was to my ſituation, which placed me near ſo many young men, who were ever ſeeking for ſomething to admire, and ſatisfied with ſmall ſucceſs; and that I was not a little indebted to nature, in having been moſt niggardly in diſpenſing charms among the reſt of the young women in the neighbourhood.

I ſaw many old gentlewomen, who convinced me, that had I been born a generation earlier, I ſhould ſcarcely have been looked at: But all this I kept ſecret within my own boſom; for I plainly perceived, that the impoſing air of a beauty goes a great way towards cauſing a perſon to be eſteemed ſuch: The world is ſo obliging, or ſo indolent, it ſeldom diſputes our title to what we ſeem confident we are in poſſeſſion of.

CHAP. XIV.

Happy the innocent, whoſe equal thoughts
Are free from anguiſh, as they are from faults.

WALL.

IN this giddy round of vanity I paſſed near three years, without, in any degree, diſproving my ſiſter's opinion; for tho' I was flattered by thouſands, was ſighed to by great numbers, peſtered with verſes by all the ſmall wits of the Univerſity, and attacked in ſober proſe by many who could not coin a rhime, or had not poetry enough in them to fill up a *bouts-rimés*; yet

yet I had not one who offered to venture into wedlock with me: Nor could I wonder at it, for I had not vanity enough to think my appearance promiſed much conjugal felicity. But at laſt, a young gentleman of the Univerſity made more ſerious addreſſes to me.

This gentleman, by name Mr. Monkerton, was agreeable in perſon and underſtanding; but what particularly diſtinguiſhed him, was an eaſineſs and gentility of air and manner, which is ſo ſeldom found in very young perſons at thoſe places. He ſeemed to have ſtudied the preſent age more than the paſt; and tho' he might give leſs ſatisfaction to his tutor, than many of a more bookiſh turn, he was much properer to pleaſe a woman, as he could render his converſation agreeable by other means than that of flattery; the only merit to which moſt of my admirers could pretend.

Nor was Mr. Monkerton much leſs qualified to pleaſe by fortune; he had a good eſtate, and no father; that inſurmountable obſtacle to a young girl's marrying to advantage, who has no dower but her perſonal charms. He was indeed yet under the power of guardians, being a minor; but as he was above nineteen years of age, their authority could not laſt long; and his allowance was very ample.

I had reaſon to believe Mr. Monkerton's views were not at firſt ſo ſerious. He was in reality captivated; I could perceive that he did not follow me from idleneſs or faſhion, but becauſe he could not bear my abſence. He was as conſtant as my ſhadow, and as near me too; for he always took care to be next me, whatever number at his firſt approach he found in his way.

His knowledge of the world made him think that a vain girl of my rank was attainable on eaſy

eaſy terms by a man of his fortune: This gave him that degree of aſſurance which ſeldom turns to a man's diſadvantage with our ſex; who are too apt to be leſs charmed with modeſty, than with a freedom of manner, which gives them better opportunity either to ſignalize their own good behaviour, or to furniſh them with an excuſe to lay it aſide.

I confeſs myſelf one who was pleaſed with Mr. Monkerton, for being void of that aukward baſhfulneſs which I ſaw in moſt of his age. He ſoon perceived he was preferred to all his rivals, and did not intend to leave what he thought ſo promiſing a circumſtance uncultivated. After having performed the duties of a public courtſhip as long as he imagined my vanity could require, he began to ſollicit for private interviews. I ſoon penetrated his meaning; which made his ſollicitations for ſome time prove fruitleſs. I had virtue, and its neceſſary companion decorum; both of which were offended with the thoughts of an aſſignation: But he preſſed it ſo long, and with ſuch earneſtneſs, that my pride was piqued; I could not bear he ſhould think a private meeting was of ſo much conſequence; he ſhewed he thought me very frail; and I was apprehenſive, that, by the obſtinacy of my refuſal, I ſeemed to have as low an opinion of my virtue as himſelf.

From this motive I reſolved to endeavour to leſſen his importance, and raiſe myſelf in his opinion; and accordingly gave him leave to come and ſee me one day, when I knew my father and ſiſter were engaged at ſome miles diſtance. To have granted him a meeting at any other place, would have been an impropriety of conduct, which might have argued too great a levity, however,

however prudently I had behaved when I was there.

I ſee you all tremble at this ſtep of mine, and think my pride is going to humble me; but not at all: My lover found this interview was not worth ſo much ſolicitation. He loſt much rhetoric, ſwore many oaths in vain, and found all Love's artillery of ſighs, tears, and vows was not ſufficient to anſwer his expectation.

When evening came; he was obliged to leave me, without obtaining, as he thought, any other advantage from his viſit, than the ſatisfaction of having entertained me ſome hours uninterrupted, with all that his paſſion could dictate; but, in reality, he had much increaſed mine: His tenderneſs infected me; I had not half loved before; I knew not till then the pleaſure of being beloved; my vanity had been more engaged than my heart.

To the impreſſion Mr. Monkerton had made on my affections, was owing my not diſcarding a lover, whoſe views I ſo plainly ſaw through. I had fancied myſelf of too much importance to be thoroughly ſenſible of the ſuperiority which rank and fortune gave him over me: This imagined equality increaſed the offence; but my heart pleaded for the offender; nor was my vanity quite ſilent: I was not without hope, that when he ſaw how much he was miſtaken, his paſſion might conquer all his reaſons againſt matrimony. I plainly perceived how much the advantages in ſuch an alliance would be on my ſide; tho' I thought it no more than what I was intitled to by nature.

He obtained leave to make me ſo many *tete a tete* viſits, as ſerved to convince him that there was no chance for ſucceeding in his views; and at the ſame time to increaſe his paſſion as well as mine.

mine. He grew melancholy, and kept at College for a week, without coming to ſee me.

This touched me extremely; but pride came to my aid, and enabled me to give him a worſe reception, for what he thought might have induced me, by additional kindneſs, to recover a conqueſt which I ſeemed in danger of loſing.

This was too painful a piece of ſelf-denial for him to practice it again, when it had proved ſo uſeleſs; and therefore, after profeſſing his eſteem to be equal to his paſſion, and declaring himſelf charmed with a virtue which had baffled all his hopes, he aſſured me he could find nothing in an everlaſting union with me, that would not be the moſt ardent wiſh of his heart, if it was in his power to proclaim me for his wife; but that he was left ſo much in the diſpoſal of his guardians, that he could not marry publicly without their conſent; but that, if I would agree to a private marriage, when he came of age, I ſhould ſee how much it ſhould be his care to recompenſe me for my condeſcenſion.

I was not a little pleaſed with hearing Mr. Monkerton propoſe wedlock to me, tho' I did not like the terms. I endeavoured to perſuade him that a year would ſoon paſs away, and that he would then be at liberty to do what he choſe, without any reſtraints: I offered to diſcard every other lover; to change my way of life; to be always at home; and always happy to receive him, as there could be no doubt but my father, proud of the honour he intended him, would be glad to make ſo ſhort a delay as little irkſome as poſſible.

He exclaimed at my cruelty, in calling a year a ſhort delay, to a paſſion ſo ardent as his; and to ſay the truth, I had belied my own heart in that expreſſion; therefore was the more ready to ſuppoſe

ſuppoſe it inſupportable to him. But a private marriage was an odious ſound: I valued the reputation of virtue, as highly as the inward ſatisfaction ariſing from it; and knew not how to ſacrifice it, even for a year. I was ſenſible how difficult it was to wipe off a blemiſh from any thing ſo tender; it is ſcarcely poſſible but ſome ſtain will remain behind. All this I repreſented in the ſtrongeſt light, but met with no anſwer, but accuſations of want of love: He repreſented, that he relinquiſhed all proſpect of increaſe of fortune, and of great alliances, for my ſake, and that I would not endure one year's obſcurity for him. My reputation, he added, by marriage became his; it could receive no blemiſh that would not be reflected on him; and it would be as much his intereſt as his duty to make my virtue conſpicuous; which, like the ſun, might be a little overſhadowed, but could never be totally eclipſed.

But the moſt prevailing of all the things Mr. Monkerton could urge to bring me to a private marriage, was a declaration, that if I perſiſted in my refuſal, he would go abroad; for he could better bear to be ſeparated from me, than to drag on a life thro' a tedious year of expectation.

The beſt arguments reaſon could have ſuggeſted, had it all been on his ſide, would not have availed him ſo much as this menace. My heart could not bear to part with him; nor could my vanity ſupport the thought of loſing a marriage ſo much to my advantage. I had ſcarcely any principles of action left, but love and vanity; how then could I reſiſt, when both were on the ſide of my adverſary!

And yet the conditions were hard; for Mr. Monkerton required I ſhould go off with him, without informing any of my family of the true ſtate of the caſe; becauſe, he ſaid, their pride would

would hint our marriage to ſo many, if they did not publicly proclaim it, that would come to his guardians knowledge. Many aſſurances of the ſtrong proofs of our union, which he would give to my relations, as well as to all the world, as ſoon as he ſhould be of age; with the moſt flattering proſpect of the ſplendor in which he would then bring me to viſit them; were requiſite to make me conſent to ſuch mortifying terms; nor would I leave my father's houſe, but on condition that he ſhould give me the ſtrongeſt contract imaginable, till we were married; and that we ſhould ſet out ſo very early, that we might arrive at London, where the ceremony was to be performed, before the canonical hour was paſt.

CHAP. XV.

Hail, wedded love! Myſterious law! True ſource
Of human offspring! Sole propriety
In Paradiſe; of all things common elſe. MILTON.

EVERY thing being at laſt agreed upon, I ſtole out of my father's houſe very early, with trembling ſteps, and a more trembling heart, and went to the inn, where I was to meet Mr. Monkerton; who was not ſo cold a lover but he was there before me, and had got a chaiſe ready, which carried us out of the town directly, and proceeded with great ſpeed to London.

I could not leave the place where I had ſo long lived, and which contained moſt of my relations and friends, without many tears. Mr. Monkerton ſaid all that love could dictate, to make me eaſy; not without ſucceſs; I loved him too well not

not to find great pleaſure in the happineſs which every word and every look expreſſed; and at laſt I grew happy too; but it was rather a tender than a lively joy; ſome melancholy would remain, but ſuch as gave me an appearance of more ſottneſs, not of leſs love, than before I had taken this raſh ſtep.

We were carried directly to the Fleet: I was an entire ſtranger to London, and knew not what bad repute this place was in; but it did not ſeem a fit reſort for happineſs: However, to avoid all delay was ſo neceſſary a point to me, (after having put myſelf thus into the hands of a young man, whoſe honour I had reaſon to believe aroſe only from having found it neceſſary for the ſucceſs of his paſſion), that I made no objections: We were married there; after which, I gave up my contract, as being of no farther uſe; and we drove to the other end of the town in ſearch of lodgings, and were ſoon accommodated.

My heart began now to be a little at peace; I was married to a man much my ſuperior, from whom I might in a ſhort time expect to have my reputation reſtored, and to be placed in a rank far above my birth; in the mean time, might hope that mutual love would yield me more happineſs. If all brides were ſo reaſonable as to depend on love for their felicity only for one year, fewer diſappointments might ariſe from marriage. But, I am afraid, I was not ſo very moderate in my expectation as my expreſſions would ſignify; for my hopes of reciprocal affection extended to as great a length of time as thoſe of the moſt unreaſonable of my ſex; but for the firſt year it was all the ſatisfaction I could expect from my new ſtate.

When my fate was once fixed, I endeavoured to ſee it only on the brighteſt ſide. My ſpirits were

were by nature remarkably good, and I had never met with any affliction to weaken them. This diſpoſition enabled me to chaſe from my thoughts too great anxiety for my reputation; and, inſtead of it, to dwell on the joy I ſhould receive from clearing it up to the world, at once vindicating my virtue, and doing honour to my charms.

Mr. Monkerton's fondneſs for me filled up my time; for when he was not with me, I wanted no employ, but to recollect every tender aſſurance he had given me of his love; and mine, thus indulged, increaſed daily. But, tho' every hour ſeemed productive of happineſs, yet I could not forbear wiſhing to haſten the ſteps of tardy-footed time, in order to get to the end of my year of obſcurity and ſhame, tho' it never ſat heavy on my mind, except when Mr. Monkerton was obliged to go to College; which he ſometimes thought it neceſſary to do, as a blind to his guardians: But theſe abſences were very ſhort; and it was neceſſary they ſhould be ſo, for my days hung very heavy on my hands when he was away. I could not bear to go abroad, becauſe I knew I muſt be looked upon as his miſtreſs.

This change of life, from a deſire to produce myſelf "where moſt might wonder at nature's "workmanſhip," to be afraid of ſhewing myſelf to any eyes but Mr. Monkerton's, could be reſcued from extreme dullneſs by nothing but love. When he was away, my ſpirits would ſometimes ſink, from reflecting on the great alteration in my mind; that I, who uſed never to be ſeen without being admired, could not now ſtir out of my houſe without being covered with ſhame: But my conſolation was, that every day brought me nearer the end of this diſtreſsful circumſtance.

Mr.

Mr. Monkerton often endeavoured to prevail on me to go abroad with him, and was the more urgent, as my confinement in ſome degree impaired my health: But herein he was unſucceſsful; all he could obtain, was, that after it was dark, I would often walk round a neighbouring ſquare with him for an hour or two.

The houſe we lived in was very elegant, and my cloaths expenſive; for Mr. Monkerton was laviſh in his preſents, and took great pleaſure in adorning me: In every particular our appearance was genteel, but few were witneſſes of it. I could not have kept any company, which I ſhould have thought ſuitable to me; and I would accept of no other; nor would I be put on the footing of a miſtreſs to his acquaintance; and therefore he admitted few to his houſe. Two or three gentlemen, who were his more intimate friends, he introduced to me; and theſe were often with us, which ſerved to enliven the converſation, tho' it did not render it always more agreeable; for people who love much, are apt to be more deſirous of avoiding other company than in prudence they ſhould be; ſince interruption, if mortifying, ſerves to render each other's converſation more delightful, by giving them an impatience to be at liberty to enjoy it.

At laſt the time came which delivered Mr. Monkerton from all tuition; that ſo much wiſhed-for year of twenty-one, which ſets a man of fortune free from all reſtraints, at an age when the paſſions are generally the ſtrongeſt, and conſequently leaſt under the guidance of reaſon. But ſo the law ordains; and when a man is moſt unfit to govern himſelf, he is ſet at liberty from every governor. Nor did I want to lengthen the term, having impatiently longed for the end of Mr. Monkerton's minority.

I did

I did not fail to remind him of his promiſes the day after that which declared him major; but he put me off with pretences of difficulties in ſettling accounts with his guardians, which would engroſs all his leiſure for a little time, and make it impoſſible for him to declare his marriage with ſo much eclat as he could wiſh; but as ſoon as that was over, aſſured me he would do every thing I deſired.

It was now winter; Mr. Monkerton's guardians were in town; and as every time he was abſent, he ſaid he was with them, I had reaſon to hope, however intricate their affairs were, ſo unwearied an application muſt ſoon clear them up: But new difficulties I was aſſured were continually ariſing; and Mr. Monkerton told me, that it was very diſagreeable to him to be ſo frequently preſſed on a ſubject with which he could not at that time comply; and gave him reaſon to believe that I either doubted his honour or his truth; and he ſhould take it as a favour if I would ſay no more till he was able to keep his word, having often given me ſufficient reaſons why he could not do it then.

It is true that the intricacy of his affairs was often alledged to me, but as no immediate hopes were given me of their being ſettled, I could not be free from apprehenſions that this was a mere pretence. I had endeavoured to perſuade him to lay aſide the thoughts of the eclat with which he talked of proclaiming me his wife; deſiring it might be done only in ſuch a manner as the buſineſs he was engaged in would permit, and to leave to time its being generally believed. I was willing to reſign all the gratifications of vanity, and deſired only to be reſcued from ſhame and infamy. But theſe petitions, which juſtice would have allowed me to aſk with leſs humility, were

become offenſive; and Mr. Monkerton told me, with great indignation, that my pride would conquer his affection, and that my great haſte to be acknowledged a wife, would make me loſe a huſband.

Theſe were grievous menaces to a woman who aſked as a favour, what ſhe might demand as her due; and who valued nothing ſo highly as her reputation, except the man to whom ſhe had made a temporary ſacrifice of it. I was awed into ſilence, and waited with apparent complacency, tho' with inward impatience, for two months longer, without once urging my requeſt: But hearing nothing on the ſubject in all that time, I broke thro' the reſtraint I had laid on myſelf, tho' not without fear, and expreſſed my deſire of knowing how his affairs went on, in the mildeſt terms.

I was heard with good humour, and thanked for having avoided the ſubject ſo long; and an intimation was given me, that to this was owing my being liſtened to with civility: I was aſſured, 'that the moſt difficult points were ſettled; 'and that I might depend on his diligence for 'determining the whole as ſoon as poſſible, tho' 'not ſo ſoon as he wiſhed, for the nature of the 'diſpute made it tedious; but that my prudent 'ſilence would facilitate the diſpatch, as teazing 'him rendered his mind wholly unfit for buſi'neſs; and he hoped I would ſhew my confidence 'in him, by being quite eaſy and paſſive in that 'particular; for nothing was ſo great an in'centive to generoſity, as being generouſly treat'ed; therefore I could not doubt, by ſuch be'haviour, of ſecuring to myſelf what from him 'was only juſtice.'

In this manner I was partly intimidated, and partly whedled into ſilence, till three months more

more were elapſed. The town grew empty, and my ſuſpicions increaſed daily. When I conſidered that Mr. Monkerton had been brought to marry me only from finding all his hopes fruſtrated of gaining me upon eaſier terms, I had reaſon to fear that he might deſign to keep clear of the incumbrances of marriage as far as he was able.

CHAP. XVI.

A generous fierceneſs dwells with innocence;
And conſcious virtue is allow'd ſome pride.
DRYDEN.

ONE evening, as I was ſitting with Mr. Senwill, one of Mr. Monkerton's friends, who was waiting for his return home, and who ſeldom ſeemed diſſatisfied with my company, I was ſo abſorded in my melancholy apprehenſions, that the converſation flagged extremely; and he, walking about the room, took up ſome letters, which had come by the poſt for Mr. Monkerton; and looking at them, aſked me, if I ever ſaw a worſe hand than Mr. ------'s, ſhewing one of them to me. This Mr. ------- was the chief of Mr. Monkerton's guardians. I anſwered, that the hand was indeed a vile one; but it could not be that gentleman's, for it came by the poſt; and ſhewed him the mark of York upon it; whereas he was in London.

Mr. Senwill told me, that I muſt be miſtaken in that particular; for Mr. ------ had been at his country ſeat near two months.

This ſtartled me extremely; but I perſiſted in my aſſertion, that I had heard Mr. Monkerton mention, having juſt parted with him, and three other gentlemen, whom I named, and who were Mr. Monkerton's other guardians.

'I have been in doubt,' ſaid Mr. Senwill, 'for 'an hour paſt, whether you were not aſleep; but 'I am now convinced of it, for I find you dream. 'One of the gentlemen you mention, has not 'been in town this year; another came only to 'deliver up his truſt to Mr. Monkerton, and re-'turned directly into the country; and the others, 'upon my honour, have long ago left London.'

Struck to the heart with this information, I ſtarted up, and ſaid, with great emotion, "I "have indeed been long aſleep, and dreadful is "ſuch an awaking!" and walked about the room in an agony that aſtoniſhed Mr. Senwill, who knew not the importance of what he had ſaid.

He came up to me, and taking hold of my hand with tender concern, aſked me what he had ſaid or done, that could have ſo cruel an effect upon me? And upon my refuſal to explain myſelf, he omitted no intreaties to prevail upon me to ſatisfy his curioſity, which, he aſſured me, 'did not ariſe from impertinence, as I might eaſi-'ly imagine from the ſilence he had always pre-'ſerved concerning ſome puzzling appearances in 'my connexions with Mr. Monkerton, which he 'had never attempted to pry into; but that he 'ſaw himſelf ſo much the cauſe of the emotion I 'was in, that he ſhould be wretched till he knew 'how he had been ſo unfortunate as to give pain 'to one, whoſe peace and happineſs were dearer 'to him than any thing on earth.'

I per

I perſiſted in my refuſal; but told him, if he would make me any amends for the uneaſineſs he had given me, he muſt tell me where the gentlemen we had been talking of lived in London.

Mr. Senwill 'wiſhed he knew the reaſon of 'that requeſt; but ſince nothing but implicit 'obedience was allowed him, he would ſhew, 'by his readineſs to obey me, how ſincerely he 'was attached to my ſervice, if I would but ac-'cept his moſt faithful endeavours to remove the 'diſquiet he had innocently occaſioned.' He told me, that only two of the gentlemen had houſes in town, to which he gave me a particular direction; but the other's ſtay was ſo ſhort, he knew not where he was during that little time.

Tho' I ſpoke but little, yet, in the agony of my mind, I uttered ſomething that ſhewed reſentment againſt Mr. Monkerton; from which Mr. Senwill ſuſpected that jealouſy was the occaſion of my uneaſineſs, tho' he could not perceive how it ſhould be excited by any thing he had ſaid; and very generouſly told me, 'he believed 'I ſuſpected his friend of ſome inconſtancy; and 'that he thought himſelf obliged, in juſtice to 'him, and compaſſion to me, to aſſure me that 'he could anſwer for my having no rivals.' Much to this purpoſe he urged to little effect, as my ſuſpicions were levelled more at his honour than his love: But at laſt I told Mr. Senwill, that I ſhould take it as a favour to be left alone, and ſhould be glad to ſee him when I was more fit for company. With unaffected concern he left me: My heart thanked him for his pity, of which I felt myſelf a true object.

I had no reaſon to doubt the truth of what Mr. Senwill had ſaid: I had ſuſpected him of a ſtronger attachment to me than was conſiſtent with his friendſhip for Mr. Monkerton, tho' till

this night he had never ſaid any thing to give me room to form that opinion : But he was ignorant of the uſe which had been made of thoſe gentlemens names ; and if he had known it, the man who could generouſly endeavour to remove the jealouſy he ſuſpected me of, would not have made a bad uſe of it.

I was ſenſible of the impropriety of ſhewing a bad opinion of my huſband to any man, but eſpecially to one who I thought did not look on me with indifference ; therefore I choſe to ſend him away, and venture alone to the houſes where he had directed me, tho' it was now dark. Accordingly I went to each, with all the haſte that anger, impatience, and a whole army of paſſions could inſpire me with ; and there had the account which Mr. Senwill gave me, confirmed.

I returned home, filled with reſentment, deſpair, and contempt for the man who had ſtooped ſo low to deceive me ; and found him there full of ſurprize at my being abroad. It was ſo ſtrange a circumſtance, that he knew not how to take it, and was prepared to be angry ; but in ſo ſmall a degree, when compared with the indignation which actuated me, that it ſoon ſubſided, till it was turned to another ſubject.

I told him, without much circumlocution, the diſcovery I had made of his meanneſs, and how baſely he had drawn me into a ſort of acquieſcence with his delay of owning me for his wife.

Mr. Monkerton at firſt endeavoured to ſoothe me into forgiveneſs ; but finding it all in vain, and that I now inſiſted highly on the juſtice he had ſo long evaded ; he aſked me, in a ſurly manner, ' If I would have him own me for what I was ' not.'

" That,"

" That," I told him, " he had too long " done; therefore I expected he ſhould now " own me for what I was, and publicly acknow- " ledge me for his wife." He replied, ' that I ' who was ſo much offended at a breach of ' truth, could not require him to publiſh ſuch a ' falſhood.'

This manner of treating me almoſt turned my brain. I aſked him, ' What he could mean by ' it? He could not deny me to be his wife!' " Indeed," replied Mr. Monkerton, with an af- fected coldneſs, " thanks to the law, I am not " married; therefore can have no wife!"

I could not forbear exclaiming at this ſpeech, ' When, by all laws divine and human, we are ' married, what law can ſet you free?'

' The Marriage Act, my dear,' anſwered the monſter; for ſuch he now appeared to me: ' We ' were neither of us of age; and therefore no ' marriage between us could be valid, without ' the conſent of our friends.'

It is impoſſible to deſcribe what I felt on this occaſion: I was a prey to almoſt every paſſion that can afflict the human breaſt: Deſpair alone would have been a ſtate of bliſs, compared to what I endured: The tumultuouſneſs of my paſſions increaſed my anguiſh: I had heard the Marriage Act talked of, but had never attended to the pur- port of it; nor did I believe it could affect the va- lidity of our marriage.

Mr. Monkerton did not think my company inviting, nor chuſe to trouble himſelf with fruit- leſs endeavours to make me credit what I was obſtinately bent to diſbelieve: So telling me, ' that he would paſs the night where he could ' hope for quieter reſt,' he left me; and about a quarter of an hour after, his ſervant brought the Marriage act, with his maſter's compliments,

and that he had ſent it for me to peruſe, for the clearing up of my doubts.

The cold inſolence of this meſſage almoſt rendered me incapable of examining into the truth of what Mr. Monkerton had aſſerted; but at length I compoſed my ſpirits enough to read it, and there found the fatal truth too certainly confirmed.

Had virtue only actuated me, the integrity of my own heart would have given ſome degree of compoſure to my deſpair: I might then, in ſilent tears, have wept my fate; and from principles of truth and juſtice, deſpiſed, and calmly hated, the wretch who had thus betrayed me into ſhame and infamy. But pride and vanity had too great a ſhare in my heart, and turned deſpair into deſperation. I paſſed the night in ravings and exclamations, more like a frantic than an afflicted woman; and could not be prevailed upon to go to bed; nor durſt my maid leave me, fearing my diſtraction might lead me to ſome deſperate courſe.

CHAP. XVII.

O honour! frail as life, thy fellow flow'r;
Cheriſh'd, and watch'd, and hum'rouſly eſteem'd;
Then worn, for ſhort adornment of an hour;
And is, when loſt, no more to be redeem'd!

D'AV.

THE agitation of my mind at length exhauſted my ſpirits; and, like children, I cried myſelf to ſleep, on a ſofa where I had laid me down, without expecting any ſuch interruption of my ſorrows; for I cannot call it a refreſhment

freſhment; having, after about two hours reſt, waked only with greater power to grieve. Nature had gathered ſtrength by that little ceſſation, and laviſhed it, like an unthrifty fool, as ſoon as obtained.

In this condition I paſſed three days, alternately a pray to deſpair, to rage, and grief: But by the fourth my body was grown ſo weak, with the agonies of my mind, and want of food (for I had not been able to eat any thing,) that a langour ſeized me, which not only affected my outward frame, but deadened my mental faculties. This was a real relief; tho' my melancholy was extreme, yet by this means it became quiet, and I was leſs violently afflicted for knowing better why I was ſo.

I looked on my ruin as irretrievable: Tho' I could not accuſe myſelf of want of chaſtity, yet I was not free from juſt cauſe of ſelf-reproach. I now ſaw that I had been as regardleſs of my happineſs as of my duty to my father, when I had been prevailed upon to tranſact an affair of ſo much importance without his advice; and that it was great imprudence to ſuppoſe I could receive any detriment from the perſon, who, of all the world, muſt naturally be moſt anxious for my welfare.

When I firſt married, I wrote a letter to my father, requeſting his pardon, and telling him, that in a ſhort time I hoped to appear leſs criminal in his eyes.

To this I received no anſwer; but comforted myſelf in thinking that my great exaltation would procure my forgiveneſs. This expectation was now over; and I could not ſupport the thought of carrying my infamy among all who loved or envied me. Tho' I had no gilt to reproach myſelf with, but that of diſobedience (a heavy

burden indeed to a delicate conſcience; but yet does not bear that badge of infamy which is ſtamped on other crimes,) I could not expect ſuch lenity, from the world, as to have my innocence allowed without any other proof than my word. Many people are ready to believe any ill of one perſon, if that belief does not tend to the juſtification of another; but when it does, they become charitable and good natured, and will credit but half the evil, that they may lay the remainder on the other party, and ſo humanely blame two inſtead of one. This I take to have given riſe to the declaration, by which many think they ſhew a candid and impartial humanity, that there muſt be faults on both ſides. As Mr. Monkerton's extreme villainy in a great degree made my excuſe, I had all reaſon to expect that moſt people would believe that no man could be ſo great a villain.

Shame is very often inconſiſtent with itſelf, and makes us do what we ought to be moſt aſhamed of. The only prudent ſtep I could have taken, was, to have gone home to my father, and endeavoured every means of prevailing on him to receive me; but ſhame, as I have ſaid, prevented me: And tho' prudence is oftener looked upon as a branch of wiſdom than of virtue, yet ſhe who offends againſt the one, is in great danger of ſwerving from the other.

I had as ſtrong a ſenſe of virtue as pride can give: I felt it ſo neceſſary to my happineſs, that the mere imputation of vice made me give myſelf up for loſt to the world, and to myſelf; ſince I was loſt to reputation. I ſaw no glimmering of hope to be reſcued from infamy; but, with a dramatic poet, agreed, that when a woman has once ſacrificed her fame,

'In vain with tears the loſs ſhe may deplore;
'In vain look back to what ſhe was before:
'She ſets like ſtars, that fall to riſe no more.'

I did not perceive the difference between virtue and reputation; and that I might preſerve the one, tho' I could not regain the other; but felt myſelf totally deprived of every comfort, and my paſſions all ſubſided into a ſettled deſpair.

Mr. Monkerton and Mr. Senwill had both often called on me, when I was not capable of bearing the ſight of the one, or converſing with the other; but after ſome days repeated refuſals, the former prevailed on my maid to admit him. His appearance rouzed me out of my lethargy of grief; my paſſions began to riſe; and he found I had more reſentment remaining than he imagined I was then capable of, from the account he had received of me.

The deſign of Mr. Monkerton's viſit was to prevail with me to become what I had ſo long appeared, and live with him as his miſtreſs, which he repreſented as the only part that remained for me to act; called what he had done exceſs of love, and promiſed every indulgence that could make me happy.

To preſume thus on the love he imagined I muſt ſtill entertain for him, and on the deplorableneſs of my ſituation, was a freſh inſult, which he found I was capable of reſenting. I from my heart deteſted him for his baſeneſs; and, with truth, told him, that beggary and famine would be more eligible to me, than any further intercourſe with him.

The only ſatisfaction I had received from the moment of the fatal diſcovery of Mr. Monkerton's treachery, was from ſeeing him really touched

touched at my reſolution. However, he flattered himſelf, that as my anger ſubſided, this might alter; and he well knew that my pride allowed me no reſource, after ſo mortifying a circumſtance; and therefore renewed his ſolicitations, both by letter and by ſpeech, whenever he could obtain admittance, but to little purpoſe; my hatred was founded on my ſtrongeſt principle, pride; and therefore was unconquerable.

When he ſaw the power it had over me, he was extremely afflicted; he wept, beſeeched, uſed every means to move my compaſſion; and I never ſaw a greater wretch than he appeared when he found me inexorable: Upon which, deprived of all hopes, he determined to go abroad; and actually did ſo, as ſoon as he could equip himſelf for his journey.

Mr. Senwill had likewiſe obtained permiſſion to ſee me as ſoon as I was able to bear converſation; and from his I found ſome relief, for it was filled with all the tokens of compaſſion; he wept with me when I wept; he joined in my rage againſt Mr. Monkerton, with unaffected deteſtation of his proceedings; and I found had dropped his acquaintance, from the time that he learnt his treatment of me.

The tenderneſs of a friend is always pleaſing, but never ſo much as when diſtreſs deprives us of all other comfort. Mr. Senwill's principles appeared ſuch as merited my eſteem, and his attachment engaged my gratitude. With him I could lament over all the horrors of my ſituation, and aſk his advice about the means of reſcuing me from them.

In this point alone his friendſhip failed me; for he did not aſſiſt me in any expedients, but conſtantly offered his fortune to my acceptance, with an air of ſuch diſintereſted generoſity, as gave me

me pleaſure, tho' it could not procure my acceptance. He all the time profeſſed only the tendereſt friendſhip, avoiding every expreſſion of a paſſion, with which he had reaſon to think I was in no very good humour.

When Mr. Monkerton took leave of me, the day before he ſet out for Dover, from whence he was to proceed to France, he offered me the continuance of ſuch part of his income as would enable me to live as I had done ſince I belonged to him, if I would gratify him with the acceptance of it, which he had the better hopes of, as his image was not ſtamped on his money. This offer I totally rejected: Deſtitute as I was of ſupport, I could not accept it from one who had ſo grievouſly injured me.

The money I had by me ſerved for my maintenance for about three months; during which time I lived upon it, irreſolute in what way to fix the future part of my life; but when it was almoſt ſpent, I found it neceſſary to take a ſpeedy reſolution, and conſulted Mr. Senwill on every ſcheme which offered itſelf to my mind, tho' I had little reaſon to expect much aſſiſtance from him; for, as I have already ſaid, he always appeared more at a loſs than myſelf: But the diſtreſſed and the irreſolute oftener conſult a friend in order to gain a good excuſe for talking of their grievances, than from a deſire or expectation of receiving much benefit from their advice.

Mr. Senwill had done little more than increaſe the difficulties which preſented themſelves to my view, on every thing I thought of undertaking, till he found my circumſtances required ſome immediate determination. He then began to profeſs a paſſion, which, he ſaid, he long had ſtifled, and would have ſtill concealed, rather than have run a hazard of my thinking him too ſelf-intereſted,

tereſted, if he could have prevailed on me to ſuffer him to ſupply me with an income ſuitable to the way of life I had been uſed to; but ſince a too delicate generoſity made me obſtinately reject his offers, he would ſhew me how to render him under eternal obligations to me, and at the ſame time free myſelf from all my difficulties.

He aſſured me he would do all that was in his power to raiſe my blaſted reputation, by treating me as his wife, and conſenting to my aſſuming his name. All this he urged with a ſincerity of love, which affected me, who was full of eſteem for him; and, by having continually drawn his compaſſion into a compariſon with Mr. Monkerton's cruel treachery, had conceived a high opinion of him. But I could not liſten to ſuch a propoſal without very humiliating reflections, at ſeeing how much I was ſunk in the world, to have them made me with ſo little ceremony.

Theſe drew tears from my eyes, which Mr. Senwill wiped off, with an air which ſpoke the ſofteſt tenderneſs and pity; and had, I believe, delicacy enough to gueſs from whence they ſprung, for he avoided aſking me the cauſe; but allowing ſomething to the laſt ſtruggles of that pride which I called virtue, he mixed ſome tears with mine, and, from partaking of my melancholy, made himſelf a pretence for becoming more tenderly familiar.

Tho' I was mortified at Mr. Senwill's preſuming to make me this offer, yet I could not be offended. Innocent as I had been, I could not expect he ſhould think of marrying a woman who had nothing but infamy to bring him; and if he had been ſo generous, or ſo weak, which-ever you pleaſe to call it, as to have harboured ſuch a deſign,

deſign, he had a father, who would have been a ſufficient impediment to his putting it in practice: And I have often thought ſince, that as he knew all the workings of my mind, he muſt ſee that pride, which now was robbed of all opportunity of taking the ſhape of virtue, would lead me into vice.

When a woman receives ſuch propoſals without anger, compliance is ſeldom far off. I ſaw a means of avoiding all the difficulties, which had occurred in my various ſchemes; and that only by contributing to the happineſs of the man who ſeemed ſo intereſted in mine; whom, tho' I did not love with all the heights of romantic paſſion, yet I eſteemed with a tenderneſs which was more rational, and likely to be not leſs ſatisfactory. Virtue and reputation were to me ſynonymous terms; I therefore looked upon myſelf as much loſt to them as I ever could be; and like, I believe many of my ſex, thought, that after being once entered into that way of life, it was impoſſible to go back, as if a point of honour had obliged me to fulfil the expectations which my former conduct might naturally have raiſed.

A lover is not in danger of having a very tedious cauſe to plead, when his miſtreſs ſtrengthens his arguments, by ſuch reaſons of her own. Mr. Senwill was not many days in obtaining my conſent to all he had offered, and I became in reality what I before only appeared; and, what was odd enough, ſeemed now to ſome, among whoſe faults incredulity could not be numbered, to be what I before thought myſelf, A wife.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Oh! When this tyrant doubt torments our breaſt,
Our thoughts, like birds, who, frighted from their reſt,
Around the place, where all was huſh'd before,
Flutter, and hardly ſettle any more. OTWAY.

MR Senwill's behaviour won my whole heart, which did not pique itſelf upon being incapable of ever admitting a ſecond object of its affections; and as I was grown deſperate in the point of reputation, I no longer made myſelf a priſoner, but kept ſuch company as I could, and went to public places in a moderate degree, tho' with leſs ſatisfaction, as Mr. Senwill could not venture often to accompany me there.

One night that I was peculiarly happy in Mr. Senwill's being with me in the gallery at the play (for we went into that part of the houſe, in order to avoid being ſeen), I heard ſomebody come in with more than ordinary buſtle, and ſit down behind me; which tempted me to turn round, and my ſiſter proved the perſon. I ſtarted with ſurprize; but much greater was her emotion, filled with horror, as ſhe ſaid, to think ſhe was near ſo ſhameleſs a wretch; and gladly would ſhe have fled, for fear of contagion; but the rows behind her had filled ſo faſt, that ſhe could not get away.

I ſaw no one with her but a youth, who was 'prentice to my father when I left him, and could not be out of his time. This excited my curioſity; and I expreſſed my ſurprize at ſeeing a perſon of her great prudence without any other companion.

'Surely,

'Surely, replied ſhe, 'a woman cannot be in 'better company than with her huſband: I wiſh 'you were in any ſo creditable.' "Your huſ-"band!" ſaid I; "How can that be? I am "ſure my father could never conſent to ſuch a "match."

'Well,' anſwered my ſiſter, 'if he did not 'conſent, I have, however done no harm; for 'marriage is holy and honourable too: I wiſh no 'one of his family had done worſe.'

Mr. Senwill pitied my ſituation, and told her, he would not diſpute the merits of her huſband; but he confeſſed he rather took it ill, that ſhe ſhould imagine he did not make her ſiſter as good an one; for he thought it his duty to make his wife happy, and had done all that lay in his power for that purpoſe.

Tho' my ſiſter had ſo much feared to be contaminated by ſitting near me, her ſituation began now to be rendered more uneaſy by envy, than it was before by her virtuous apprehenſions; and ſhe could not bring herſelf to ſpeak to me afterwards: While ſhe thought ſhe had the advantage of matrimony over me, ſhe could bear the ſuperiority of my appearance; but when ſhe believed us on an equality in that particular, it became inſupportable.

As I could not engage her in converſation, I got Mr. Senwill to put ſuch queſtions to my new brother-in-law, as ſhould gratify my curioſity; and he, young enough to be vain that a woman of diſcretion had fallen in love with him, was more communicative; and we learnt, that ſhe ran away with him, that they were juſt married, and were endeavouring to obtain my father's forgiveneſs, and to be received by him.

It would have been cruel not to have pardoned the conſequence of ſo high a value for his ſex,

and

and a deſpair of meeting with a reward for ſo much prudence, whoſe recompenſe had been long enough delayed to alarm her apprehenſions with a poſſibility that it might never arrive.

I lived with Mr. Senwill in great tranquility, full of confidence in his love, his generoſity, and his honour. He poſſeſſed a delicacy of mind, and a gentleneſs of manners, which rendered him peculiarly amiable. He ſuffered for every mortification I received, and was delighted with every incident that gave me pleaſure. I had, I believe, leſs paſſion for him than I had felt for Mr. Monkerton, but much more tenderneſs. The one had captivated my fancy, and amuſed my mind; he had charms enough to overbalance the faults or follies I ſaw in him, but ſtill I perceived them. But my judgment applauded all my ſentiments for Mr. Senwill; without intoxicating my fancy, he gained my whole ſoul; my attachment to him was of a more ſerious ſort; it gave a gravity mixed with tenderneſs to the whole turn of my mind, and rendered it more ſuitable to his; which, free from the flights of youth, was ſteadily fixed in the paths of honour; and except his frailty in regard to myſelf (and this, inſtead of then appearing a crime in my eyes, was, if not his firſt, yet his moſt endearing merit), I believe he never performed an action, which was not directed by honour and virtue. This teſtimony is due to an integrity by which I ſuffered; but ſuffered without repining, acknowledging the juſtice of my fate, and eſteeming the cauſe of my uneaſineſs ſtill the more for having inflicted it upon me.

In Mr. Senwill's ſociety I enjoyed ſuch a ſober uninterrupted happineſs, as deadened in me the

ſenſe

ſenſe of reputation; and I almoſt ceaſed to regret what I conſidered as irrecoverable.

My ſervants ſeemed to believe me really married; they ſaw nothing in my behaviour or manner of life to make them doubt it: I was not too indulgent, in order to blind their eyes to my failings, nor mean enough to wiſh to make them feel their inferiority, by adding weight to the burden of ſervitude: I made them neither my companions nor my ſlaves; but enabled, by the happy compoſure of my mind, to preſerve a juſt medium, I treated them as perſons to whoſe happineſs it was my duty to contribute, without putting them out of their ſphere. I imagine nothing was more conducive to my gaining their good opinion than this behaviour; for women who are caſually placed in a ſtation ſuperior to their expectations, and in which they are ſupported only by vice, are apt to be 'vain of a lit-'tle brief authority;' and for fear they ſhould not be known to have perſons under their ſway, they become their tyrants.

I had a few acquaintance, indeed as many as I deſired; they were people fit for the companions of a tradeſman's daughter, but not for Mr. Senwill's wife. People of condition were not ſo eaſily impoſed upon; therefore I could not expect to be admitted into their ſociety.

In this manner about a year had paſſed, when Mr. Senwill began to appear melancholy and uneaſy; a change which much alarmed me. I often enquired into the cauſe, but for ſome time without ſucceſs; till, no longer able to reſiſt my importunity, he acquainted me, that my brother-in-law, at his return into the country (upon the ſtrength of what he had ſaid in anſwer to my ſiſter's inſolence, which he could not bear, conſidering himſelf as the ſubject of her reproaches), had

had ſpread the report of our marriage ſo univerſally, that it had reached his father's ears; who enquiring narrowly into our way of life, was equally diſturbed with the fear that we were really married, or that his ſon had entered into engagements, which he looked upon in a light more ſerious than the reſt of the world.

I could not but be very uneaſy at finding Mr. Senwill's father was appriſed of our connexions: I knew how much his ſon reſpected him, his high ſenſe of the duty owing to a parent, and the more particular reverence which his peculiar virtues demanded; and therefore was ſenſible that while the father was offended or uneaſy, the ſon could not be happy.

Old Mr. Senwill is a man of uncommon integrity; of manners as gentle as his ſon's; tenderly affectionate, wiſely indulgent to his children, mild to their frailties, but rigid to their vices; a man of great ſincerity, and ſtrictly religious. His paternal affection, which prevented his ever being angry with his children, rendered him liable to be extremely afflicted with any fault in their behaviour: He was much intereſted in their temporal welfare, but inexpreſſibly anxious for their future happineſs.

This amiable diſpoſition could not fail of meeting with a moſt affectionate return from ſuch a ſon, who feared nothing ſo much as giving his father pain. He knew that caprice or ill humour had no ſhare in the direction of his father's actions; tender parental love was the ſole motive of every thing he ſaid or did; and his ſon repaid him by every thing that filial affection could dictate.

Sincerely as Mr. Senwill loved me, I do not believe he would ever have ventured to enter into any connexions with me, if he had thought there was

was much danger of its coming to his father's knowledge, who had for ſome years retired into the country; and was brought to London only by the report of his ſon's marriage with a woman of ill fame, which had diſturbed the peace of his retirement.

I knew not what to expect from this event: I had no doubt of Mr. Senwill's love, and knew that he thought his honour in ſome meaſure engaged to me, and was ſenſible of the ſincerity of my attachment to him: Theſe were ſtrong ties; but could ſcarcely be more potent than his obedience and his affection to his father. Which would get the better, I knew not; nor was it of great conſequence; for I ſaw that if I was conqueror, ſtill he would never be happy, while he thought he was acting contrary to duty and gratitude. It was almoſt as great a misfortune to me to ſee him uneaſy, as to ſee myſelf forſaken: Every way I had nothing but unhappineſs in view.

Mr. Senwill's tenderneſs ſeemed to increaſe with his melancholy; his love was never more apparent, but always accompanied with a viſible diſtreſs of mind; and every token of affection from me, which uſed to give him ſo much pleaſure, now put him into agonies of deſpair. I often begged him to give vent to all his thoughts, which I knew not how to interpret; but he as often told me he could not expreſs his ſenſations, nor communicate all his afflictions. By theſe expreſſions I learnt to fear evils beyond what I already ſuffered.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

What have we gain'd by this one minute more?
Only to wiſh another, and another;
A longer ſtruggling with the pangs of death.
Oh! Thoſe that do not know what parting is,
Can never learn to die.——— OTWAY.

I Paſſed ſome months in this ſtate of ſuſpenſe, ſuffering much, and fearing more; but was at laſt cleared of all my doubts, by a viſit from one of Mr. Senwill's friends, deputed by him with a meſſage, which he could neither write nor ſpeak to me himſelf.

This gentleman acquainted me, that about two years before, a match had been negotiated between Mr. Senwill and a young Lady of large fortune, whoſe perſon and diſpoſition were perfectly amiable; and her regard for Mr. Senwill ſo viſible, tho' veiled under great natural modeſty, that every body expected it ſhould much endear her to him. In conſequence of this diſpoſition in his favour, her father had propoſed the match, tho' her fortune was ſuperior to what Mr. Senwill could poſſibly expect. His father had been greatly pleaſed with it, and accepted it readily, not ſuppoſing it poſſible his ſon ſhould be averſe to an union with a woman ſo infinitely deſirable.

The young gentleman was ſent for down, and told, that every thing was agreed upon; his father having often heard him ſpeak of her with the greateſt eſteem, and having ſome time before fancied he ſaw a partiality in him towards her. And thus far he judged rightly; while Mr. Senwill

will had no other attachment, he liked no one ſo well; but tho' ſhe had pleaſed his reaſon, ſhe had not enſlaved his fancy, which was reſerved for one leſs deſerving.

He received his father's ſummons after his paſſion for me commenced, tho' he had then no expectation of meeting with a return, or any thought of declaring it; with-held by a ſenſe of honour, while he looked on my affections as the property of his friend. But yet he could not think of marrying another woman; eſpecially one who, he was conſcious, deſerved the whole poſſeſſion of a heart, which he had not to diſpoſe of.

It was difficult for a man of Mr. Senwill's politeneſs and humanity to decline an affair ſo far advanced, eſpecially when he was not ignorant of the regard the young Lady had for him; but he was too firmly determined, not to effect it; and his father's indulgence would not ſuffer him to inſiſt on what he had engaged in, tho' his honour and his inclination ſtrongly intereſted him in it.

When the old gentleman found his ſon's attachment to me was ſo ſtrong, and had inquired enough into my paſt life to have even a worſe opinion of me than I deſerved (for he neither knew the whole of my caſe, nor had any partiality to plead in the behalf of my faults); he was fully bent on dividing us. He met with more oppoſition from his ſon than he imagined him capable of giving to any thing he ſo much deſired. He knew the ſtrength of his ſon's reaſon and dutiful affection ſo well, that he did not ſuppoſe it poſſible they ſhould be conquered by paſſion. But he found it eaſier to make him wretched than paſſive; he ſaw him miſerable; but he diſcovered that he ſtill viſited me, and deſpaired of preventing

preventing it, unleſs he could bring his honour and humanity on his ſide. To effect this, he intreated him to conſent to his renewing the negotiation with the young Lady, whom he had before refuſed.

To this Mr. Senwill was more averſe than ever; and it was his father's continual ſolicitations which had occaſioned the extreme diſtreſs he had appeared in. But at laſt the old gentleman making this the only means of giving him any eaſe of mind, or of gaining his pardon for his ſon's offences, and repreſenting to him the melancholy effects which the love of him had on the young Lady whom he rejected, who ever ſince had been in a decline of health and ſpirits, which deſerved the more compaſſion from him, as ſhe had been led into liking him by an appearance of his partiality for her; theſe arguments, continually urged to him, at length determined Mr. Senwill to ſacrifice his own inclination to the will of a father, whom he thought he could never ſufficiently obey. And by this gentleman he ſent me this intelligence; tho' he could not part with me without one laſt farewel, but knew he ſhould not have courage to tell me it was to be for ever.

This circumſtantial detail was, in part, deſigned to break my misfortune to me the more gently; and to render it ſupportable, was concluded with aſſurances of Mr. Senwill's everlaſting eſteem and gratitude, which no change of circumſtances could extinguiſh; and with a promiſe, that he would wait on me the next day.

The ſhock was great to part with a man whom I loved with reverence (for ſuch was my affection for Mr. Senwill), and to be left again without ſupport or comfort. But I was prepared by the expectation of ſome great evil, and was ſo wretched

wretched at ſeeing his diſtreſs, that nothing but ſuch an event could render me more ſo. My paſſions, which had once been ſo outrageous, were now ſoftened by previous ſorrow; beſides, I had nothing to move my anger; and grief, unaccompanied by any other paſſion, will not cauſe impatience.

I perceived what I had to expect, before the gentleman had advanced far in his ſtory, and tears came to my relief: As he proceeded, the torrent increaſed, and they calmed my ſoul; and perhaps my ſorrow was more eaſily confined within the bounds of patience, from the fear I had of loſing ſome part of the narration.

I found this gentleman had been deſired to uſe every argument of conſolation: He urged all he could think of; but what a cold heart utters with indifference, can have little effect on one which is tormented with the moſt poignant grief. When he found the ſmall ſucceſs of all he ſaid, and that I gave as little ear to his philoſophy as Romeo does to the Friar's, which he holds entirely unavailing, as it cannot make a Juliet; he left me, without receiving the acknowledgments due for the trouble he had taken; but thoſe who are, 'With themſelves 'at war, neglect the ſhews of love to others.'

I found I grieved more from the fear of loſing Mr. Senwill's affection, than for the loſs of his ſociety or his fortune. To ſee him, was neceſſary to my happineſs; but to be loved by him, ſeemed requiſite to my exiſtence. Herein I received ſome conſolation the next day.

With what impatience did I wait for the hour, when I might expect to ſee Mr. Senwill! Impatience mixed with fear; a joy, as it approached, blended with ſorrow. My mind was a compli-

cation of contradictions. He came as he had promiſed, 'But, Oh! that meeting was not like the 'former!' With ſteps as haſty and unequal as the beating of my fluttering heart, he came up-ſtairs; but when he entered, and ſaw me like a ſpectre, with ſcarcely life or motion, he threw himſelf on a couch, in ſuch an agony of grief, as rouſed me from the ſtate I was in; and, neglectful of my own ſorrow, I ſunk on my knees at the ſide of the couch by him, endeavouring to ſoothe his affliction. But this attempt only ſerved to encreaſe it; and above two hours paſt before either of us was capable of any utterance, but ſighs and tears: I continuing in my poſture, weeping over him; while, with his arms round me, he claſped me to his boſom.

The deſire of leſſening his ſufferings, by concealing part of my own, enabled me to be the firſt who broke thro' this ſcene of ſilent woe: I begged him to compoſe himſelf, intreated him not to grieve for me, who, I imagined, was the chief object of his affliction; for I could never be wretched if he was happy; which I truſted he muſt be, with a woman ſo much worthier than myſelf, and with the ſatisfaction ariſing from a conſciouſneſs of his obedience to the beſt of fathers.

But while I was telling him, that the contemplation of his felicity ſhould be my conſolation, my look and manner ſo contradicted my words, that my deſpair and grief were never more ſtrongly painted; and little amendment appeared in us the whole day (for he ſpent it all with me,) except that we grew able to expreſs our wretchedneſs.

He ſent an excuſe to his father, who expected him in the evening; for he was very unfit to be ſeen

ſeen by any one, and utterly incapable of converſation. But in all our diſcourſe, nothing afflicted him more ſenſibly, than my obſtinately rejecting a ſettlement from him : He had brought one ready drawn up, and intreated my acceptance, with ſuch earneſtneſs, as the only conſolation he could receive, and the only means of his enjoying a moment's peace of mind, that nothing could have made me capable of a refuſal which appeared ſo cruel, but conſideration for his happineſs.

I was too well acquainted with his generoſity, not to foreſee this circumſtance ; and therefore had reflected upon it, when he had not, by his importunity, the means of rendering me incapable of judging. I was afraid, that if ſuch a thing came to be known, as in a length of time it in all probability muſt, it would give cauſe of diſcontent to his wife, who would not eaſily be perſuaded that he had never ſeen me after his marriage ; and I could better ſupport any diſtreſs, than a thought of occaſioning the leaſt uneaſineſs between him and his wife.

No conſideration of leſs conſequence could have enabled me to reſiſt. He aſſured me that the ſum was no greater than he might with juſtice diſpoſe of ; for he ſhould reſtrain his own particular expences within ſuch bounds, that his ſhare of their fortune could not be thought above his due, tho' his wife would bring the greater part of it ; and that he ſhould looſe all eſteem for her, if he thought ſhe would deſire him to behave otherwiſe to a woman who merited ſo much from him ; or, if ſhe could wiſh to deny that one gratification, to a man who ſacrificed all the happineſs of his life to her.

Tho' I was unconquerable in my reſolution in this particular, I could not refuſe to promiſe

that I would accept what money he had by him; which he inſiſted on ſending me, when he had no hopes of prevailing in his other requeſt.

He informed me, that he was to be married the day but one following; for he had been deſirous of having a day to recover himſelf, after taking leave of me, that he might be the better able to go thro' the ſolemn ceremony, which would oblige him never to ſee me more; at leaſt, till age ſhould have robbed us of our paſſions, and of the charms which excited them, this opened to us a proſpect, which we then ſeized as our ſole conſolation, and promiſed a conſtant remembrance of, and eſteem for, each other; and that, when that happy period ſhould come (for ſuch it then appeared to us, as we thought that age could take nothing from us, which would not be far more than compenſated by the reſtoration of each other's ſociety,) we then might meet again, and converſe as free from guilt as from ſcandal.

But tho' this ſeemed ſome conſolation, yet it could not enable us to take ſo long a farewel without an agony of grief, which greatly prolonged it. Many times we ſaid, Adieu! before we could think we had taken abſolute leave of each other; and whenever we had, we found the ſuffering ſo great, we agreed to defer it one quarter of an hour: By theſe delays the night was far advanced, before Mr. Senwill could prevail on himſelf to go; and when he did, he was obliged to the aſſiſtance of his ſervant, or he could not have got into his chair.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Our life is ſhort, but to extend that ſpan
To vaſt eternity, is virtue's work. SHAKESP.

AS for myſelf, my ſituation was beyond the power of deſcription; pardon the tears which the recollection draws from me: My grief was intenſe, but not bitter: I admired the man who had inflicted it, if poſſible, ſtill more than ever; I loved him better for being thus forſaken by him; and I had one ſatisfaction which accompanied every thought, that he ſtill loved me to exceſs. Tho' I had loſt his converſation, I preſerved his affection: This was a reſource, in which my heart found relief from deſpair, tho' not from regret.

I had deſired Mr. Senwill not to ſend me the money he inſiſted on my accepting, till the day after his marriage; that I might have an opportunity of enquiring how he had ſupported his ſpirits. Accordingly on the appointed day, the friend, who had before been with me, came and delivered me a pocket book, wherein he ſaid the ſum was incloſed.

My thoughts were ſo much more employed on the giver than on the gift, that inſtead of opening it, I enquired after Mr. Senwill's health; and learnt from his friend, that he was not able, till the evening of the day after he was with me, to wait either on his father or his miſtreſs; that the former excuſed it, knowing the ſtruggle in his heart, and was ſufficiently thankful to him for conquering his inclinations at all: The latter

knew not the cauſe of this ſeeming neglect, which he attributed to illneſs, and with great truth, for the body cannot be well when the mind is ſo ill at eaſe. She had, during the whole negociation, perceived a melancholy in Mr. Senwill, which had given her ſome apprehenſions: ſhe thought him but little of a lover; but the affection which made her feel it the more ſenſibly, inclined her to over-look it, and rather to ſeem ignorant of it, than run the hazard of an explanation, which might be worſe than doubt. She plainly ſaw, that he beheld their approaching marriage with coldneſs; but ſhe truſted to his honour and humanity for being well uſed, and thought his generoſity would not return indifference to the love he would perceive ſhe had for him, and to her conſtant endeavours to pleaſe him. With moſt men this would have been but a frail dependance; but with Mr. Senwill it was infallible.

They were married, as had been agreed upon; and the gentleman, who brought me this intelligence, accompanied Mr. Senwill, from the time he roſe, to the end of the day; and was one of their attendants at church. He told me his friend got up with ſuch a depreſſion of ſpirits, and ſo fixed a melancholy in his countenance, that he was alarmed, leſt he either ſhould not have reſolution enough to go thro' the ceremony, or that his appearance would caſt a damp on every heart. But that, after converſing together about two hours, and ſummoning every argument to his aid, he aſſumed an air, which perſons inclined to look on the ſide moſt agreeable to themſelves, might think rather ſolemn than melancholy. He had endeavoured by dreſs to give a chearfulneſs to his general appearance; and

and thus fortified, with all the reſolution he could ſummon to his aſſiſtance, they went together to the bride; whom they found elegantly beautiful; her dreſs not gaudy, and her countenance not devoid of fear, which Mr. Senwill's coldneſs had raiſed.

They ſoon proceeded to church, and there, as well as the whole day, his friend behaved with as much chearfulneſs as he could expect, tho' he ſaw frequently ſuch ſtruggles in his mind to keep up any tolerable degree of it, as filled him with apprehenſions, leſt he ſhould at laſt looſe all command of himſelf; and with compaſſion for the lady, who he feared might ſee thro' it, as he plainly perceived old Mr. Senwill did, whoſe parental tenderneſs ſhewn in his countenance; where pity for what his ſon ſuffered was blended with joy, in the proſpect of happineſs, which he flattered himſelf was opening before him, when his firſt melancholy was worn off.

Tho' every particular of this narration went to my ſoul, yet I liſtened greedily after it; and never votary put up a more ardent prayer than I did for the happineſs of this marriage; for what I wanted in devotion towards the Being I prayed to, was made up by love to him I prayed for.

This gentleman left me a direction to him, begging, that if ever it was in his power to ſerve me, I would without ſcruple apply to him. This he ſaid he owed to Mr. Senwill's friendſhip, who had deſired him to grant me any protection or aſſiſtance I ſhould find requiſite; but that, independent of ſuch a requeſt, the eſteem which, from my behaviour and his friend's good opinion of me, he had conceived for me; his ſincere compaſſion for what he had ſeen me ſuffer; and the title nature had given me to every regard from

his ſex, would have made him ardent in offers of his ſervices, as nothing could yield him greater pleaſure than to be ſo employed.

I promiſed, if ever I ſaw occaſion, he ſhould hear from me; and after he was gone, and I grew compoſed, I opened the pocket-book he had brought me, and, to my ſurprize, found it contained bills to the value of 600 *l.* but what was to me of much more worth, with them was a letter from Mr. Senwill.

I could not forgive my want of curioſity, which had ſo long delayed my receiving this bleſſing. I felt new life flow into my heart at the ſight of his hand, and opened it with rapture and impatience: It contained all that words can expreſs of kind, generous, and noble, with ſuch deep diſtreſs, that I forgot I was a ſufferer to grieve for him; but I was called off to ſome attention to myſelf by the latter part of it, wherein he told me, 'That the 'only thing which could have prevailed on him to 'leave me, was having his conſcience convinced 'that we lived in ſin; and that all the alleviations 'cuſtom had taught him to alledge, were fatal 'deceptions. That this afflicted him more for 'me than for himſelf; for he was not able to bear 'the reproaches both of his conſcience and of 'his love; for having drawn in, to be partner of 'his guilt, the perſon whoſe welfare was dearer 'to him than any thing on earth. That he 'could not mention this circumſtance in his meſ-'ſage, nor when he ſaw me, fearing I ſhould look 'upon it as a reproach for my paſt conduct, which 'in him would have been highly unjuſt; ſince he 'was conſcious that the crime was all his own: 'that I was in nothing to blame, but for my too 'partial opinion of his honour and integrity, two

'qualities

'qualities to which he could no longer pretend a-
'ny title, ſince they had not prevented him, who
'found me innocent, tho' unhappy, from taking
'advantage of my diſtreſs; and, becauſe I was
'expoſed to ſhame, leading me into guilt; which
'would be an eternal cauſe of ſorrow and repen-
'tance to him.'

He then told me all the arguments his father had uſed to convince him of his crime; pointed out every text of ſcripture which declared the guilt and puniſhment attending it; wondering how he, who had in other things, entirely acquieſced in its authority, could have been blinded in theſe particulars, by ſuch poor evaſions as the world makes uſe of to excuſe the irregularities of which they are guilty: and added, that, had not this conſideration far out-weighed his filial duty, his father could never have had his compliance to boaſt of; but he could not ſupport the thought of bringing everlaſting miſery on her, whoſe ſmalleſt pain gave him inexpreſſible uneaſineſs.

He ended his letter with all the tendereſt wiſhes, and the moſt ardent prayers, that a love, which was anxious both for the preſent and the eternal happineſs of its object, could dictate: And intreated me not to reſtrain myſelf in any expences that could give me the leaſt ſatisfaction; for I might depend on having ſo conſtant a ſupply, that I ſhould never find any deficiency.

Mr. Senwill's friends had hinted ſomething to this effect; and I now ſaw plainly, that, altho' I would not accept of a ſtipulated ſum, fixed even out of the power of the giver of it, and ſecured beyond his life, yet he was determined to beſtow that as a preſent, which I would not re-

ceive as my due: But this I was reſolved to prevent.

The part I have mentioned ſo particularly in Mr. Senwill's letter made a ſtrong impreſſion on me. My nature muſt have been very perverſe, if he, who had led me into error, could not guide me to truth. I read, I examined the Scriptures as he recommended, and, above all, I continually peruſed his letter, where the arguments were ſo ſtrong and clear, that, had my diſpoſition been worſe than it was, I could not have withſtood conviction; which was facilitated by my having then no inducement to diſbelieve truths ſo evident; for I am inclined to think our incredulity is oftener cauſed by an unwillingneſs to comply with the doctrine, than from a want of ſufficient light to ſee the force of it.

The fears which were thus awakened in me for my ſoul, withdrew my thoughts, more than any thing elſe could, from Mr. Senwill; tho' I am afraid he was ſo interwoven with every conſideration, that, even in my repentance, I was in ſome meaſure actuated by a deſire of extenuating his guilt, by making him the means of my converſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

An eaſy quiet, a ſecure retreat,
A harmleſs life, that knows not how to cheat,
With home bred plenty, the rich owner bleſs,
And rural pleaſures crown his happineſs.

DRYD. VIR.

I Paſſed a week in this manner, and ſettled the plan of my future life conformably to it. I determined to convert the 600 *l.* Mr. Senwill had ſo generouſly given me into an annuity; to ſettle in ſome cheap part of England, where I ſhould be known only by my future conduct; and there to live in the exerciſe of Chriſtian duties, to repent of my own ſins, pray for him who had been a partner in them, and to endeavour, by all the means in my power, to contribute to the preſent eaſe and future felicity of all on whom I could have any influence.

The money I had by me, and the produce of ſome things which I intended to ſell, as foreign to the purpoſe of my future life, the preſents which the vanity of Mr. Monkerton, or the fondneſs of Mr. Senwill, had made me, I deſigned ſhould maintain me, while I was ſeeking out a proper place for my abode, and purchaſe me what conveniencies I might want there: For this purpoſe it was more than ſufficient, and would in all probability, allow me a ſmall ſum to keep by me in caſe of exigence.

I had made no ſecret of my intention to my maid, tho' I did not intend to take her with me,

as I would not have one about me who had my reputation in her power.

As I was at a loſs for a place to fix on, and knew no good means of enquiring, I thought I would take advantage of the offer Mr. Senwill's friend had made me, and aſk his aſſiſtance in the choice of one; and perhaps, I was not ſorry that Mr. Senwill ſhould know a reſolution, which I imagined would give him pleaſure.

In purſuance of this determination, I ſent my maid with a letter to him, and felt ſome impatience for her return, as I wanted to begin the courſe I had reſolved on, and was not leſs deſirous of an opportunity of inquiring after Mr. Senwill, which I flattered myſelf I ſhould have, as I made no doubt but his friend would come to me on this occaſion. But dinner was brought up, and my maid was not returned; I thought, perhaps, the gentleman was in company, and had made her wait for his anſwer. This ſuppoſition laſted a little time; but night came on, and ſtill no news of her. I had made ſuch frequent inquiries, that a leſs circumſtance would have alarmed my under maid, than ſeeing that all her things but one great box were gone, as ſhe perceived was the caſe, on going into her room for ſomething ſhe wanted. The girl ran to me in a fright, and told me this particular. Tho' I had never conceived the leaſt ſuſpicion of her honeſty, this account ſtartled me; I aſked if any people of ill appearance had been with her lately. The girl ſaid, that, the night before, a man had called after it was dark, to whom ſhe had given a box, ſaying, it was a carpenter who was to mend it, for it was broken; and as ſhe was to move ſoon, it would be neceſſary to put all her things in repair.

Upon

Upon this I went into my room, to ſee if my things were ſafe. My trinkets, and ſuch little things as I deſigned to ſell, had been put off my toilette, out of her great care, as ſhe pretended, from the time that I received notice of Mr. Senwill's deſign of leaving me, as no longer of uſe to me, who had then no temptation to dreſs with any care, beyond what cleanlineſs required. I went to the drawer where ſhe had laid them, and found it empty. I now was prepared for the worſt. I opened my bureau, and could find neither the notes for the 600 l. nor the money I had by me, which I kept in the ſame place.

I no longer remained in doubt. I ſaw I was robbed, and knew not any means of recovering what I had loſt. I was ſhocked at this circumſtance, but had ſuffered too many ſharper afflictions to be much grieved.

Here again I thought to have recourſe to Mr. Senwill's friend, for his advice how to purſue the woman, and ſent my only remaining ſervant to his houſe, to beg he would call on me; but ſhe brought back word, that he was gone into the country for a fortnight.

To be deprived of all hopes of aſſiſtance from Mr. Senwill's friend was a mortifying circumſtance: I knew no other perſon from whom to expect much help. I would not, on any conſideration, have applied to Mr. Senwill; and when I reflected on the conſequences which would probably have followed my acquainting his friend with my diſtreſs, I was no longer ſorry that he was abroad, as it would, in all likelihood, have led Mr. Senwill into an expence, very inconvenient to him at that time; for he would have been deſirous of reimburſing me.

I con-

I conſulted one or two of the moſt ſenſible tradeſmen with whom I dealt; but what they adviſed, took up the greateſt part of the little money which I happened to have in my pocket, without bringing me any intelligence of what I had loſt. I had therefore nothing left me, but to find out ſome means of providing for myſelf; the little plan, in the execution of which I had formed hopes of ſome remaining comfort, being now entirely overthrown.

The only thing that offered itſelf to my thoughts was ſervice. I attempted ſeveral places which I heard of; but the want of recommendation procured me a conſtant refuſal. I could not even venture to refer them to any of my neighbours, ſince my late ſituation was too well known to them.

When I found I had no chance for being received as a ſervant, I tried if I could maintain myſelf by plain work; but, by enquiry, I underſtood that my employment this way muſt be very precarious, ſo many ſeeking the ſame; and, by experience, I knew myſelf to be ſo very ſlow a worker, that, had I been always provided with employment, I ſhould ſcarcely have been able to have procured myſelf the pooreſt ſuſtenance.

Sincere repentance had humbled me; my pride was ſubdued by religion, which, in every particular but one, Mr. Senwill had been ever inſtilling into my mind, while we lived together; therefore I was the better prepared to receive all the truths of it. Having now no chance for a ſupport, I wrote to my father, tho' I bluſhed to think of appearing before one I had ſo much offended, till I conſidered, that I had ventured to apply to the General Parent, againſt whom I had ſinned more grievouſly: Thus encouraged,

I wrote

I wrote my father the moſt affecting letter which real diſtreſs could dictate; but it availed me little; I received for anſwer, that he diſclaimed ſo ſhameleſs a daughter, and would never ſee me more.

I had conceived great hopes of being accepted by him: To be thus rejected, therefore, afflicted me moſt ſenſibly; but I could not blame the ſeverity which wounded me ſo deeply; I was conſcious of my own unworthineſs, and that in his eyes I muſt appear ſtill worſe than I was.

Deprived of every hope, I knew not what courſe to take; till I recollected having heard Mr. Senwill ſpeak, with great praiſe, of this bleſſed aſylum, for ſuch wretches as myſelf. Here then I determined to apply, and the hand of pity received me, moved like its Maker by my penitence.

The day before I entered here I wrote a letter to Mr. Senwill; telling him, that he had compenſated for perverting of me, by having wrought my repentance, and given me a ſenſe of religion; which, without him, I might never have had; and that nothing ſhould have made me troublea peace, but my deſire to give the eaſe to his mind which I hoped it would receive from this information. I added, that I was going into a quiet and pious retreat, where he would ſhare in all my prayers, and be for ever remembered by me.

This letter I carried to his friend's houſe; and, having found him at home, informed him of the robbery my maid had committed; of my unſucceſsful endeavours to provide for myſelf; and of my laſt determination. He intreated me not to put this in execution; but I told

told him nothing could alter my reſolution; and accordingly came the next day: and have enjoyed ſo much content ſince I entered theſe doors, that I cannot repine at my maid's diſhoneſty, eſpecially as ſhe left me Mr Senwill's picture, which I contemplate hourly with a melancholy, but I hope an innocent, ſatisfaction.

You may remember, that in the firſt week after I was admitted, a gentleman came to ſpeak with me; but not gaining admittance, a letter was brought me, which, as in duty bound, I ſhewed to the matron. The gentleman was Mr. Senwill's friend, whom he had ſent to prevail with me to repair my loſs; but that failing, he wrote to me for that purpoſe; entreating me with the moſt tender and affecting earneſtneſs, to comply with his requeſt; for that he could not bear to think I ſhould be reduced to live on charity, while he was ſupported in affluence. He added, that he pleaded herein for his own happineſs; and therefore did not think I would deny him. In ſhort, he omitted nothing that could give him a chance for prevailing: but my reſolution was unalterable, with which I acquainted him in ſuch poſitive terms, as ſhould put an end to all further ſolicitations; and ſince that I have heard no more from him; but flatter myſelf he is contented with thinking me happy; and that all circumſtances concur to render him ſo.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

All born alike; from virtue firſt began
The diff'rence that diſtinguiſh'd man from man:
He claim'd no title from deſcent of blood,
But that which made him noble, made him good.
DRYDEN.

GREAT pains have been taken by philoſophers, to diſcover from whence proceeds the pleaſure we receive by having our pity excited: Some have attributed it to the tenderneſs, others to the cruelty, of our natures; but neither have confirmed their hypotheſis by unanſwerable reaſons: ſo that we ſtill pity, and ſtill are ignorant why we do ſo. But while we participate with the diſtreſſed in their affliction, and grieve for their ſorrows, we think ourſelves free from all imputation of inhumanity, tho' we feel pleaſure in our grief, and ſometimes delight ſo much in it, that the obſervation of one, whoſe wit ſeldom ſpared the frailties of mankind, 'that every one can bear the 'misfortunes of others, perfectly like a Chriſ-'tian,' falls ſo ſhort of the truth, that they might be ſaid, by one ſect of the philoſophers I have mentioned, to ſupport them like Barbarians.

But I am not inclined to ſubſcribe to their opinion, nor think that ſo tender a ſenſation ariſes from cruelty or pride; but whatever was

was the ſource, the ſociety, whoſe biographer I am become, had liſtened both with compaſſion and pleaſure, and thought the perſon who had thus entertained them deſerved their thanks.

If pride had any ſhare in their pity, it led them not to exult over the failings they commiſerated, by comparing them with their own ſuperior merits; the only way it had to exert itſelf was in rejoicing, not that they were unlike that Phariſee, but that the Phariſee was like themſelves.

It is eaſy to imagine, that, amongſt perſons whoſe lives have borne ſome reſemblance, many reflections muſt ariſe on every incident related; but as reflections are not the taſte of the times, and are indeed too apt to want both ſpirit and novelty, one of which is at leaſt requiſite to make them entertaining, and to have no other property of eaſy writing, but that they are what any one may very eaſily write, as it has been defined, therefore I ſhall not trouble my readers with them, but proceed to the hiſtory of the reſt, with more expedition than the curioſity of the hearers required.

The next who was called upon, was a very young girl, very pretty, but very little; with ſo ſtrong an air of ſimplicity and innocence in her countenance, that it could not be effaced, even by the loſs of the virtues which originally had been the cauſe of it. Her cheeks were often dyed with ſo beautiful a vermillion, as ſhewed that nature had beſtowed on her the fineſt complexion imaginable, with ſo reſplendent a bloom, as eclipſed all the efforts of art; but tho' ſhe was ſtill extremely young, yet her conſtitution was ſo impaired,

paired, that her complexion had ſhared in the decay, tho' it would occaſionally revive. Obedient to the firſt ſummons, ſhe proceeded without ceremony, as follows:

My misfortunes began very early. When I was eight years old, I was told, by the perſon whom I had till then taken for my mother, that I was no child of hers, but that my real parent was of a rank far ſuperior, and gave me this account of my birth, which I might not ſo well have remembered, had it not been repeated to me ſeveral times afterwards.

A lady came down to a neighbouring village, and took lodgings at a cottage, where, after ſome ſhort ſtay, ſhe was brought to bed of me. She went by the name of Tent, and was very laviſh of her money, rewarding highly all thoſe about her. She was very young, and extremely melancholy; and generally found in tears if any one went into her room; watching impatiently for the poſt, but often diſappointed of the letters ſhe expected.

Before ſhe was able to travel, ſhe inquired for a ſober good woman, with whom ſhe might entruſt me; and the perſon I took for my mother, the wife of a poor labourer, was recommended to her, to whoſe care ſhe gave me, with all the charges which maternal tenderneſs could dictate; and agreed to remit her a very large allowance for my maintenance. She parted from me with the greateſt agonies of grief and deſpair; and, from all appearances, I might have expected to receive every proof of a mother's fondneſs.

For

For four years the promiſed allowance was regularly remitted, accompanied with ſuch cloaths as were ſuitable only to a child of the firſt rank. But after that time, notice was ſent to my nurſe, that my mother was dead, and ſhe muſt abate of the price that was paid her for me.

As I had been hitherto their chief ſupport, this was melancholy news; however they were obliged to acquieſce; but had ſoon reaſon to think that the making ſuch a bargain was entirely unneceſſary, for they received no pay at all, nor knew where to apply for any.

However, theſe humane people let me ſuffer as little as poſſible by this omiſſion. They fed me and cloathed me like their own children; but as they had a great number, and only one perſon's labour to ſupport us all, it was in the pooreſt manner. The only difference they made between me and their own offſpring, was in treating me with a little more diſtinction.

The place we lived in was extremely lonely; the people ſimple and ignorant to an exceſs: Our employment was ſpinning, and the only thing we were taught. In this ſituation I remained a ſharer in the poverty and content of thoſe I lived with, till I was thirteen years old, when I had the misfortune to loſe the only one whom I could look on as a mother. I lamented her as a parent; for I really loved her as ſuch. Her huſband had been in a ſickly ſtate of health ſome time, and was now unable to ſupport his family, without the aſſiſtance of the pariſh; who not chuſing to do works of ſupererogation,

tion, ſent me to that wherein I was born, and whoſe buſineſs it was to provide for me.

As my qualifications were ſo few, I was a heavy burden to the pariſh, which was therefore glad to get rid of me on the eaſieſt terms; and having found an old gentlewoman willing to take me, I was conſigned over to her. My cloaths and food were thought a ſufficient reward for my merits, and indeed I believe were entirely ſo; but it was a reward I did not enjoy.

My miſtreſs was an ancient virgin, who had what was called a competence to live on; that is, ſhe had enough to maintain her, provided ſhe half ſtarved herſelf, and quite ſtarved her ſervant.

She was, by birth, of a gentleman's family, worn thread-bare by that length of its exiſtence which conſtituted the ſum and ſubſtance of all her pride. The little ſhe had, was ſpent in keeping up the appearance of gentility. She afforded herſelf a neat lodging, decent cloaths; and would not live without ſomething by way of ſervant, tho' ſhe could not afford to maintain one. She dreſſed me tolerably that ſhe might not be diſgraced by what ſhe meant ſhould render her appearance more genteel; but, to gratify this pride, ſhe ſcarcely allowed herſelf a ſufficient ſhare of ſuſtenance tho' of the meaneſt ſort. As for myſelf, I could truly ſay, that I lived in the practice of that abſtinence, which is recommended to thoſe who would preſerve their digeſtions in good order. I always roſe from my meals hungry. To eat till I was able to eat no more, was a piece of gluttony with which no one could reproach

proach me. I had juſt food enough to keep m always hungry; a greater degree of faſtin would have damped my appetite; I, proper ſpeaking, eat to live; for any abatement in m meals muſt have had mortal conſequences.

My buſineſs was not well proportioned my feeding, for of that I had an ample qua tity. My miſtreſs piqued herſelf on the utmo exceſs of cleanlineſs; tho' ſhe was too neat dirty her rooms, yet they were always cleanin beſides which, I waſhed all her linen; b that ſcarcely took up ſo much time as the da ly folding it; for by pinching, plaiting, a ſtroking, it laſted a long time clean; and wiping and bruſhing, her cloaths were as we preſerved.

She was tall and thin, upright to a great d gree of ſtiffneſs, which her well ſtarched line its exceſſive cleanneſs, and the prim manner which it was put on, greatly increaſed. Whe ever I was not employed at home, ſhe ſe me about to retale her civilities in the town no one was ſo conſtant in their inquiries in their neighbours health: If her humanity h been meaſured by her meſſages, ſhe wou have ſtood foremoſt in the rank of the ben volent.

By all this care ſhe kept up a ſort of r ſpect, and had the ſatisfaction of being calle Madam Selton, for that was her name, a eſteemed one of the *top* people in the tow where ſhe lived. A ſufficient reward, in h eſtimation, for greater labours. Then ſhe h the honour of being the ſtandard for fi work, having wrought herſelf chairs, fille promiſcuouſ

promiſcuouſly with men, beaſts, and flowers, ſuch an admirable degree of perfection, that ſmall ingenuity was required to know the nimal from the vegetable part of her creation. She was the firſt in the place who exhibited any new ſort of work, and had diſtinguiſhherſelf in every way of waſting time and materials that had been invented during the courſe a long life.

No part of my buſineſs pleaſed me ſo well, that which her civility gave me; for, as ſhe was known to keep no profuſe table, people would ſometimes take pity on me, and invite me to partake of the ſuperfluities of the houſe they lived in.

As curioſity runs thro' all ſtations, the ſtory my birth became pretty well known; and deed my miſtreſs was not backward in publhing it, having various inducements; firſt of it gave her an opportunity of animadverting on the ſuppoſed imprudence of my mother, the conſequences of man's deceit, woman's lly, and the wickedneſs of both; bleſſing herſelf, all the time, that ſhe had preſerved herſelf om female frailty and male art; then there as enough of the marvellous in it, to make no unentertaining part of converſation; and hat perhaps pleaſed her the moſt of all, was, at it gave an air of diſtinction to her ſervant, hich her imagination reflected back on herſelf. ho' the virtue of my parents appeared but in ſuſpicious light, yet their gentility ſeemed apent; and ſhe always obſerved, that it was her ncipal reaſon for taking me, 'as ſhe thought it was the duty of people of faſhion to do what

'they

'they could for young perſons of birth, as tha
'might be an objection to many, who do no
'love to have thoſe about them that are bette
'born than themſelves; and beſides, there wa
'a nobler way of thinking in *people* who ha
'*good blood in their veins*, than in *the vulgar*
'whoſe ideas were as mean as their birth.'

End of the FIRST VOLUME.

Graves Thos. Hickin